

More means different

While the universities wrestle with Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer's lengthy questionnaire, and the National Advisory Body works out its "strategy for local authority higher education in the late 1980s and beyond", the air is filled with cries of pain, prophecy and passion. As with the schools, the prospect of smaller age-groups is concentrating attention on a wide range of curricular and structural issues. For its part, the Government is stirring things up in its own peculiar way, by promising a continued squeeze on resources. Events since 1979 have shown the resilience of the system, especially in the public sector, with the total student body expanding in spite of Government attempts to curb numbers. Now the public sector institutions face a further limitation on resources without any let-up in student demand.

As colleges prepare for yet another buttering, there seems to be a new readiness to consider much more radical suggestions for the longer term. Some of these suggestions received an excellent airing at the annual meeting of the Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education (page 14) in London last week when Mr Christopher Ball and Mr Oliver Fulton took long and hard looks into the future.

The centre-piece of the discussion was provided by two related proposals. The first concerns the balance between degree courses lasting three or more years – the traditional staple of higher education – and two-year courses of which the public sector already has extensive experience within the field of higher vocational education. The second concerns the rules governing student maintenance grants and the absolute priority accorded to awards for degree courses.

Both these issues were discussed at length in the Leverhulme studies, with controversial proposals for a new genus of two-year first degrees, and suggestions that study beyond the first two years might be financed by scholarships and loans, instead of mandatory grants. It is important to note that Mr Ball's reference to two-year courses is not intended to mean that a two-year course is a lesser qualification than a three-year one. What he said was not inconsistent with an expansion

of existing two-year courses – broadened, perhaps, to take in a wider range of subjects and skills – without tackling, head on, the contentious question of what constitutes the essential characteristics of a degree.

Indeed, he could not do otherwise: it would certainly not be possible for the public sector, on its own, to establish the credibility of a two-year degree, but if the universities led, NAB would inevitably follow. And even the universities are not fully masters in their own house: they are dependent to an important extent on international acceptance which is more significant now than ever before because of European Community rules about professional mobility.

The experience, 10 years ago, with the Diploma in Higher Education – the James Committee's proposal for a two-year qualification, pushed hard behind the scenes by the DES – was not encouraging. Credit-worthiness cannot be given to a new qualification by order of the DES: it depends on the response of professional bodies and employers, not least the Civil Service, which ostentatiously cold-shouldered the Dip HE.

Behind Mr Ball's formulation is a strong commitment to wider access. He is careful not to imply that he has any particular ceiling in mind on cost, but clearly his aim in balancing the claims of two and three year courses is to open up access (by having more two-year courses) and if this is a zero sum game, he can welcome more young (and older) people into higher education if more of them stay only two years than if they are to be slotted into traditional three-year courses.

In policy terms, greater access to higher education – which is often taken to imply more students from less advantaged social backgrounds, more women, more blacks and more older students – would have virtue in itself for many sections of opinion. Whether it would command support from the radical, conservative or the middle class is another matter.

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It was members of the middle classes who benefited most by the expansion of higher education between 1945 and 1975 and the expectation must be that, even with the curricular and institutional innovations now proposed, it will be more members of the middle classes who will benefit. The best opportunities to take advantage of expanded opportunities if Mr Ball and Mr Fulton have their way.

Second opinion

Books still need the Arts Council

The Arts Council is this month at its crossroads. In three weeks' time it will take a series of decisions which may change much of it out of all recognition. Since its top-level – and top secret – conference last October in Ilkley, it has been engaged in a "strategy exercise" designed to assess all its activities, with a view to pruning away some of the dead wood which it has over the years encumbered itself, and to spending the money thus liberated on new ideas. The exercise is a clever one, which many another enterprise might profitably emulate.

Reliable rumour has it that the literature department is being readied for the chop, with some of its existing responsibilities being devolved to the regional arts associations, some (towards publishers) being subsumed into an autonomous sub-organization, some being quietly dropped, and with what remains being taken under the wing of one of the other main departments (presumably drama).

The director of the literature department, Charles Osborne, has a well-deserved reputation for being resistant to new ideas (and even for leaving a substantial part of his annual allocation unused); the chairman of its advisory panel, Miss Margherita Laski, has let it be known in many quarters that she doubts whether readers, writers, and those who mediate between them actually need anything so grand as an entire Arts Council department devoted to their concerns.

Viewed from the summit of this £100m organization, the literature department, with its £900,000 budget, must often have seemed more trouble than it was worth. But consider that sum another way: the Gulbenkian Foundation, operates on just about the same amount of money, and look at what it has achieved over the past 10 years. With a succession of reports on the training of actors and musicians, and most recently on the arts in schools, that organization has set off huge and beneficial repercussions in many areas of public policy; with the dispensation of £1,000 here and £1,500 there, it has set all kinds of prototype schemes in motion.

There is no dearth of ideas as to how an increased literature budget might sensibly be spent – on gingering up the intellectually torpid book-selling trade, on bringing down the price of good books, or on putting those books into paperback. But even assuming that the budget remained at its present level – and assuming that it was administered by someone who cared a great deal more – its potential for good is considerable. A mere £1,000 – so pitifully small are the sums which authors must accept as advances – may substantially help a book to find its way to the shelves of a reader; £20,000 will guarantee a new magazine its first two years of life; Britain's ethnic minorities, for example, are now throwing themselves up in protest, and Arts Council support could be a major factor in their development.

These are only the most obvious ideas, of course. Behind them, awaiting a receptive ear, are many others as yet only half-shaped. The Arts Council, with its constantly changing works of advisers, is uniquely suited to blazing new trails in every field; it would be the culmination of a long-term scandal if it were now to bow out from books.

Michael Church

NEWS

Halal meat supply to go on

by Bert Lodge

Bradford City Council has decided to continue supplying ritually slaughtered halal meat for schools.

On Tuesday it endorsed last year's decision by a sub-committee to supply the meat for Muslim pupils despite objections from the city's animal rights group – whose founder, Mrs Kathryn Reynolds, has been withholding her rates in protest at the decision being taken by a sub-committee.

As the council met, Muslim parents and children staged a large demonstration in the city to protest at the reconsideration of the issue. About 70 per cent of Muslim pupils were kept from school for the day, in response to a call by community leaders.

At present the meat is supplied to about 2,000 of the 14,000 Muslim pupils in 30 schools but the aim is to provide halal meat wherever there are at least 10 pupils for it. Last year more than 47,000 sheep were ritually slaughtered in the city abattoirs.

The 4½ hour debate, ending in a vote of 39 to 15, was frequently interrupted by shouting, cheering and clapping from the public gallery where Muslims were slightly outnumbered by the rights lobby. The 43 Tory councillors were allowed a free vote. Several of the 41 Labour members voted against their group policy in favour of halal meat.

The objectors to halal meat rested their case on two arguments: such a significant decision should never have been left to the education services special sub-committee, only seven members out of a council of 90; and the method of slaughter was cruel – stunning should precede the knife.

Mr Peter Gilmour, Conservative chairman of the education committee, defended the propriety of the sub-committee's action. "It was a unanimous decision to supply halal meat. There was nothing to move up to full council," he also reminded members that already one third of the first school population of the city was Muslim. In 10 to 15 years they would amount to one third of the city's entire school population.

Another Conservative, Mr Ken Pickles, chairman of the race relations advisory group, said if the animal was stunned first the meat ceased to be halal.

Several supporters of the motion said that the debate was not about what slaughtermen did but about treating all races equally. To allow the meat in shops, homes and restaurants – as they must because it was safeguarded by law – but not in schools was flagrant discrimination.

Mr Iftikhar Quereishi, Labour, pointed out that only last year Muslims had agreed not to go for their own schools in Bradford, on condition that

existing schools catered satisfactorily for Muslim special needs. To rescind the decision now would bring a strong reaction from this community.

Accusations that objectors to halal meat were racist were denied by several speakers but they did admit the issue was a bandwagon on to which racists had climbed. Conceding this Mrs Doris Birdsall, former chairman of the education committee, said that she would still vote against the motion in defiance of her Labour group. "Anyone who condones cruelty to animals is only one step away from cruelty to humans."

Mr Harry Arncliffe, Labour, said racism was on the rampage in Bradford schools. That was why he could not support the Animal Rights Group.

Mr Bernard Kearns, Labour, said if the prevention of suffering was the issue, the answer was to abolish the bonus system under which slaughtermen were paid piece rate. That was far more harmful because of the speed at which they then operated.

Mrs Reynolds, a teacher, said after the vote that she would be asking the Ombudsman to look into the role of the sub-committee had played in the affair. She appreciated the seriousness of rescinding the policy, but it should never have got so far without full council consideration.

Poor management courses for heads 'should be stopped'

Interior management courses for heads would be stopped if they made no effort to improve themselves, Mr David Hancock, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, said last week.

He was speaking at a two-day invitation conference on school management training for industrialists and senior education officers organized by the National Development Centre and supported by Rank Xerox at the company's training headquarters in Newport, Rhondda.

The National Development Centre was established at Bristol University last September to identify and promote good practice in the training of heads. Mr Hancock told the conference that methods for the selection and

training of heads were crucial to the government policy of raising standards. In his view, the centre ought to identify best practice in management training courses, propagate it and encourage the less effective to learn from the best.

"Poor quality courses which do not respond to advice should be stopped. And the DES will help to see that they are."

Dr Ray Bolain, head of the centre, said the least effective courses were those where heads or deputies were extracted from their schools, given a set of lectures and group discussions and then sent back to school. "We can say with considerable confidence that on-the-job support of some kind is essential if adults are to apply new and complex skills learned on courses."

Although many heads and trainers were still sceptical that industry had anything to offer school management, a small but probably growing number of trainers were becoming more enthusiastic about adapting industrial training to education. "The National Development Centre is certainly committed to identifying good practice in industrial management training so that it can be applied to managing a school."

Mr Hamish Orr-Ewing, chairman of Rank Xerox, said he feared that many "managing academics" shunned the adoption of management skills, as though they were in some way improper. "They see the school or the college as some form of enclave wherein everyone must be left under the banner of academic freedom to do what they think is right."

Planning board to link HE

by Karen Gold

London is set to have a permanent higher education planning board which polytechnics and colleges will be answerable for moulding their academic, staffing and spending plans to the Inner London Education Authority's policies.

The board, which is recommended in a paper published today by Mr William Stubbs, the ILEA Education Officer, could be established and look to the 1985-86 academic plans before the end of this year. It would meet once a term, and colleges and polytechnics would be invited to send representatives annually.

Members see the board as a way of coordinating advanced and non-advanced further education across the authority, and of increasing the pressure for more access for non-traditional students to higher education.

Further and higher education sub-committee which will debate the paper on March 28, said the polytechnics had to develop better relationships with the colleges around them. "When they go through the annual exercise of going through their books and reviewing their work and looking at their proposals for next year, we will be able to turn the screws somewhat more effectively than we have done in the past," he said.

The board would comprise ILEA members, plus people they wanted to co-opt, probably institutional, inspectors and union representatives. It is not expected to include outside bodies, but the National Advisory Body and the University Grants Committee might be represented on one of the three groups working to the board which Mr Stubbs also recommends.

The groups are one to provide subject expertise across the ILEA, another to discuss it, and a third to provide a number of packages for teachers who wished to leave was one of a number of proposals being discussed with teachers' associations to combat falling pupil numbers, the spokesman said.

ILEA may be snubbed on jobs deal

Teachers' unions may be urged not to sign a plan by the Inner London Education Authority to offer voluntary redundancy packages.

However, a spokesman for ILEA said that the final decision on the package had been taken and that there

perhaps later developing a partnership in validation with the Council for National Academic Awards; one to look at geographical co-operation in five areas, each centred on a polytechnic; and one on transboundary developments, particularly with London University.

The paper also recommends the establishment of a special teacher education committee to coordinate teacher training, which would oversee in-service and access courses and resources; talk to national bodies, voluntary colleges and universities; and make a teacher training committee complementary rather than competitive.

It recommends two transboundary developments: a merger between City University and City of London Polytechnic; and one to bring Goldsmiths College into a merger with the City Polytechnic and Avery Hill College. THE S.

COMMENT

No peace for the wicked

Sir Keith Joseph took another stride into the Secret Garden last weekend. In the course of judicious discussion of peace studies he reached the wholly incontestable conclusion that teachers could properly deal with a wide range of contentious issues relating to war and peace, unilateral and multilateral disarmament, nuclear and conventional arms, provided that they did so fairly and responsibly. (He even suggested they could plan to do this in the course of physics lessons, which seems a change of tune.)

This was not all, of course. He also issued a ritual condemnation of "some teachers" who trivialized serious issues and engaged in propaganda. He has clearly been engaged by some of the wilder statements made by local politicians whose concept of peace studies is very different from his own and who, he thinks, may try to oblige teachers to promote a certain view of the role of peace and war. And he urged parents to write to him if they were angry for complaint on these matters, and cannot get satisfaction in direct discussion with the school.

As he rightly noted, "peace studies" is itself a contentious example of "unspeakable" Education for Peace (John Slater, the ILEA man who is meant to know about these things, preferred this formulation) is much better. There is important warning notes to be issued. But it is to be said that when asked to give some evidence for his generalisation that some teachers turn "peace studies" into CND propaganda, Sir Keith had to confess that he had no evidence and a handful of letters from

A PAYS LIBRE, ECOLE LIBRE

Freedom's the word in Sunday's demonstration in Versailles

Church and State again

It came as a quite a shock to hear that over half a million French parents and teachers had been demonstrating at Versailles on Sunday in defence of freedom of choice in education. As might be expected, action at the mass rally of between 500,000 and 600,000 sober-suited citizens was unravelling at two levels, the political as well as the strictly educational. On the political front the occasion had been successfully seized by the right wing to stir up popular feelings against what they regarded as a range of attacks on fundamental liberties by the Millerand Government.

On the strictly educational issue, the facts bear some comparison with the British scene. Although 15 per cent of French pupils are in private schools, the vast majority are in state schools. The French still favour a subsidised private system.

and their schools are Catholic and have a good deal in common with our voluntary aided schools, except that their state aid is on even more generous terms.

They have carte blanche to take on new teachers and open new classes, at a time when state schools are being reined in because of falling rolls and economies, and more power to pick and choose students – the majority of whom are said not to be there for religious reasons but because their parents prefer them on social and educational grounds.

The hard Left has campaigned to hold the Government to an election commitment to bring private and Church schools on to a more equal footing with state schools. Rather like the comrades in ILEA, they seem to have overplayed the hand.

What will probably happen now is some sort of compromise between a more cautious M. Savary and a Catholic Church anxious to hang on to state aid. Both sides will doubtless bear in mind that over 70 per cent of the French still favour a subsidised private system.

no comment

"I assure you that Melanie does indeed work on her biology project at home and there is quite a bit to do. The project involves heating mixtures in the garage and adding different substances to it to find the optimum growing conditions for mushrooms." She also dealt with boxes of mushrooms all over the house, growing in different temperatures. I have to admit I am not overjoyed with that project.

Letter from Barry of an A-level student who has been asked to write a paper on the effects of the environment on the growth of mushrooms. The student has been asked to write a paper on the effects of the environment on the growth of mushrooms.

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PLATFORM

The need for effective management has appeared in many areas of society where it was not considered important before. Good amateurs could do the job and did so competently enough. In many cases, their got them through. But it is a nagging and messy world; large charities, like Oxfam, the National Trust and many more, find themselves managing complex enterprises. Schools are the latest to join this list. Are headteachers managers and, if so, how do their jobs differ from the general run of managers in industry and commerce?

Schools reflect the prevailing values of society. It has long been pointed out, however, that in Britain this has worked to the detriment of our industrial performance, at least over the past 100 years. Our education system has rightly been proud of its emphasis on academic achievement, but this has led our most able school-leavers to eschew careers in industry. As a result, Britain's record in research and our standards in the professions and public service are the envy of the world, while our industrial leadership has withered away.

We are now in a position where the country's economic base cannot provide employment for hundreds of thousands of school-leavers. Prospective employers regard their skills, knowledge and attitudes as inappropriate for an increasingly competitive and technological world.

While we are among the leaders in the developed world in Nobel prize-winners, we are also top of the league in the proportion of young people without jobs.

British headteachers tend to have more discretion over the content and

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design of the curriculum than their counterparts in those countries who are our industrial competitors. No one can deny their professional discretion or competence, but they are alien to the criticism that they are unfamiliar with the world in which their school-leavers will eventually seek work.

Schools prepare our children for life. A curriculum, of course, but the curriculum is important nevertheless. The ideas, values and influences of school permeate the rest of their lives.

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Thomas Kempner joins the debate on the selection and training of heads with a report on a course that has improved their skills as managers as well as their understanding of industry

How to keep up with the other leaders

that teachers should do other work before settling down to a lifetime of teaching and then have occasional sabbaticals during their career. The theoretical arguments in favour are very great. The difficulties and costs are also obvious. This is not an argument I wish to get involved with here.

So let's look at training as it is. The idea is to give teachers a better understanding of industry and commerce and improved management skills. Can we combine the two? By chance, we may have stumbled across the solution by a happy bit of serendipity.

About five years ago, we were discussing further nominations of officers from some local authorities to attend the 10-week general management course at Henley.

Someone raised the growing management problems facing heads. We speculated about their training needs and decided on an experiment. The college would accept headteachers for the course. With the help of local education authorities and the Department of Education and Science, a selection procedure was agreed for one date, 18 have done so from a variety of schools in every part of the country.

The objectives of the course may be simply stated: to improve skills and knowledge of teachers and to provide a better understanding of industry and commerce. The course is very widely from the public and private sectors, from every branch of industry and commerce and from non-profit as well as profit-making organizations. Between 35 and 40 per cent are from overseas. Some subjects on the course are designed to improve skills, but the main objective is to widen perception about the economic, technological and social environment and then use that knowledge to steer the firm in a better strategic direction. Like all management courses, the syllabus deals with people, money, numbers, the environment, planning and policy-making.

The responses and comments from the headteachers were so encouraging that the scheme has been extended. They were quite clear. First, the

tion system in its broadest sense, teaching skills, curriculum design, selection of teachers, legal constraints, relationships with the education authorities, parents' groups and unions. Managers in other sectors would find these activities familiar, replacing one set of professional knowledge with another. The closest parallel is with other service organizations where the effective management of people is paramount; in service organizations people costs are a very high proportion of total costs.

Managers have had to tackle problems which have only become a

Courses which heads normally attend are by and for teachers and this is a limiting factor

general importance in schools in recent years. No doubt it can be argued that in the best schools this was always so. Examples are:

Personnel policies - improved selection, training, discipline, motivation and appraisal;

External relations - with a variety of more vocal pressure groups which have politicized schools - parents, politicians, influences on curricula and standards. Yet pressures of this kind, and how to live with them, are the common experience of all managers.

Marketing - and the "image" of the school - have only recently become a major issue, although other managers have always had this matter as a major part of their lives;

Authority, power and symbolism - there are changes in society which affect these matters. Headteachers have had their role challenged - as have other managers;

Planning and long-term strategy - within the context of changes in the social, economic, political and technological environment - are now part of every manager's life - or should be if they want to survive;

Organization development (OD) - analysis of organization structure, contingency theory are the subject of speculation and research although in these subjects much remains uncertain.

A few subjects like finance and investment appraisal have little relevance. Even here headteachers say it is useful to understand a topic of great concern to a majority of managers.

The above results should not surprise. The course is in parallel with the needs of those of similar intelligence and educational attainments who, after leaving full-time education, chose industry and commerce while some of their peers became teachers.

One must not claim too much, but our experiment shows that it is possible to improve the skills of headteachers as managers and their understanding of industry and commerce. It does not solve all the problems of school management let alone some of the larger issues of the role of schools in society. But it does do a little and it works and that must be valuable.

Professor Kempner is the Principal of Henley, The Management College.

Concern that police may have seen school files

by Mike Durham

Teachers and community workers in Ealing, West London, have launched a campaign for tighter control of school records, following allegations that a secondary school passed on to police confidential information on a 17-year-old former pupil.

The youth, who had attended Dorset Wells High School, Southall, was arrested and held for several hours by police investigating a burglary. He was not charged with the offence. On his release, he told civil rights workers he saw his school photograph and record in the police station.

The school has admitted giving police the photograph, but denies handing over school records. A special sub-committee of the school governors holding an inquiry into the incident.

But Reginald Hartles, Ealing's district education officer, in a reply to criticism from the National Union of Teachers and Southall monitoring group does not rule out handing over records to the police.

"Clearly the authority would wish to assist the proper process of law and would not for its part refuse to divulge information it possessed when criminal

acts were being investigated," he wrote.

The group, which observes police activity in the area, took up the case with the school, its governors and the local education authority.

"This case demonstrates that there is a need for a definite policy on school records in Ealing," said Mr Martin Gerald, Ealing NUT spokesman. "The pupils rights were infringed, and so were the parents'." Records should not be made available to outside agencies other than those they were intended for.

"It could well result in teachers not putting much down in the records if they don't know who is going to have access to them."

Mr Hartles told *The TES*: "It is not as if they say it is. As far as I can tell the school did not pass pupil records to the police. What was made available was a photograph. The governing body is looking into it."

The school declined to comment.

London officers 'poorly paid'

by Sandra Hardingham

Divisional education officers in the larger London Education Authority work long hours and have heavy responsibilities, but are inadequately paid, an arbitration hearing was told on Monday.

Mr Arthur Capelin, Greater London Council staff association deputy secretary, told the arbitration panel that a 47-hour week was the average for an ILEA divisional education officer.

Each of the 10 divisional officers, backed by a deputy, has responsibility

for 50 administrative staff and 40 educational welfare officers. They have supervisory responsibility for 1,900 teachers and 1,700 workers in schools, including school secretaries, cleaners and meal staff.

For all this, a divisional education officer receives between £18,144 and £20,199 a year. There is now a recruiting problem - Lewisham is advertising a second time for a divisional education officer and Wandsworth had to advertise three times.

Senior officers at the GLC and

ILEA have gone to arbitration after rejecting a flat rate offer from the Labour administration of £29,100 a year, worth 3.42 per cent on their pay. They are seeking a minimum of 8.3 per cent and are opposed to the administration's policy of narrowing differentials for staff.

This group covers 820 officers, 85 per cent with the GLC and 35 per cent with ILEA, but excludes chief officers. Arbitration results are expected in about three weeks.

This claim relates to a settlement due from July 1, 1983.

DES probes exam and selection link

The statistical relationship between an authority's exam success and the proportion of its pupils in selective schools is now under investigation within the Department of Education and Science.

This is one of several factors which Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, has asked his statisticians to look at as a follow-up to their study of the relationship between spending and standards. The study, published last December, found that spending per pupil made little or no difference to results; and that most of the variation between authorities could be explained by special class.

Billy Keith told the Commons last week that further studies of local education authorities would probably provide only limited help.

He has therefore asked the DES to carry out a pilot study for a sample of local schools and hopes to make a further statement later.

Both the pilot project and the study of the relationship between selectivity and results could shed some light on the controversy over the relative effectiveness of grammar and comprehensive schools.

The controversy was fuelled last year by the publication of a study by Sir Mark Fisher, *Standards in English Schools*. It found that higher exam results were achieved in 18.3 per cent of grammar schools than in comprehensive schools.

Peers upset passage of support grants Bill

by Biddy Passmore

Education ministers are steeling themselves to face delays in the passage of their Bill for education support grants after an embarrassing defeat in the House of Lords on Monday.

Labour and Liberal peers joined forces at the Bill's Report stage to pass a new clause prohibiting the use of any money under the Act "where admission is based on selective examination or sets of tests of ability."

The new clause, moved by Lord Stewart of Fulham and passed by 40 votes to 31, was meant simply to inhibit schemes for reintroducing grammar schools (never one of the projects for which the money was intended). But, if it found its way into the Act, the effect of the clause would go much wider.

Not only would existing grammar schools be unable to receive any money under the new grants, but probably secondary moderns too, independent schools - except for special

schools - would also be excluded and even, ironically, the comprehensives in the Inner London Education Authority because of the authority's system of allocating children by ability bands.

However, ministers have been advised that it would be "a breach of constitutional convention" to overturn the clause on its Third Reading in the Lords next week. So the matter must now go back to the Commons, where the Government's solid majority will ensure that the offending clause is removed before the Bill is returned to the Lords. At that stage, the Government Whips in the Lords will presumably marshal their troops a little better than they did on Monday to endorse the change.

This means a short delay to the Bill's hitherto smooth passage. It was intended to have its Third Reading next Monday and gain the Royal Assent by the weekend.

Redundancies provoke strike

Staff at the offices of the Central Bureau for Educational Visits and Exchanges walked out on strike on Tuesday afternoon, in protest over dismissal notices handed to six of their colleagues.

The staff, members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants, claimed the redundancies were unnecessary and

said that they had put forward their own plans for cost-cutting measures which would avoid them. They threatened further action.

The central Bureau is a government agency with, among other things, arrangements for language training for teachers, placements for language teachers and youth exchanges.

Brooke in letter error

Mr Peter Brooke, the higher education minister, admitted both on paper and in the Commons this week that he had made a mistake when he told readers of *The Guardian* that the grant to universities had not been cut between 1980-81 and 1983-84.

He wrote in a letter to the newspaper last month that the universities' grant had risen over the period in cash terms by nearly 25 per cent, and in cost terms had shown virtually no change.

But Mr Brooke was swiftly challenged by a prominent constituent, Lord Flowers, rector of Imperial College of Science and Technology and chairman of the vice-chancellors' committee, who said the cash increase was actually 11 per cent and the real cut some 14 per cent.

A tutorial with the chairman of the University Grants Committee followed, after which all three agreed that the cash increase was 13 per cent, equivalent to a reduction in cost terms of 8.75 per cent. Mr Brooke wrote to *The Guardian* this week admitting his error and apologizing for it. He told MPs in the Commons that committing an error in *The Guardian* was not yet a capital offence.

Business revived

Ties Investments, the company which ran a lavish summer school at Harrow which went under with debts of over £1m, has been reformed as Ties International Educational Services in an attempt to keep the operation going. Harrow School said it would consider having the firm back this year provided it paid the £50,000 outstanding from last summer.

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UGC told: extend adult courses

by Biddy Passmore

The University Grants Committee should ask the Government for extra money to stimulate the growth of post-experience vocational education, according to the report by the committee's working party on continuing education.

The working party, which was chaired by Mr Stuart Johnson, Lord Director of Education, states boldly that continuing education should have equal status in universities with research and the traditional teaching of young undergraduates.

In its introduction to the report, Mr Johnson says it is no longer enough for universities to concentrate on imparting knowledge by direct teaching on full-time courses to 18 to 25-year-olds and to keep over 25, mainly through publication of research. The time has come when post-experience education should be given equal status.

The report recommends the establishment of a standing committee of the UGC to oversee the development of continuing education and to collaborate with other bodies working in the field.

As financial incentives to universities, it proposes:

• More money from the Government, so that the UGC would be able to allocate £20m to fund over 100,000 places in post-experience education courses (this would be shared out by directly attributable extra staff specially recruited);

• A redistribution of existing resources so that universities receive the same amount of grant for each student as for each full-time undergraduate;

• Encouraging them to provide more part-time degrees and diplomas.

The report endorses the students support package recently submitted to the Government by the Manpower Services Commission, which includes grant aid to employers for updating the skills and training of their employees, grants to the unemployed to improve their basic skills and a loan scheme to individuals wishing to enhance their skills, train, or set up a business.

If these proposals are not accepted, however, the report favours further consideration of tax concessions to individuals taking post-experience education courses.

The report also says the Government should review the present management of giving funds for extra-curricular activities to schools.

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Help wanted for Warnock

The Government should give local authorities more guidelines and resources to implement the 1981 Education Act which put into force much of the Warnock report on children with special educational needs, says a report published this week.

The Independent Development Council for People with Mental Handicap, says only then will the charge be countered that the Act offers everything but the skills, resources and goodwill necessary for effective implementation.

The council was set up in 1981 by a group of organizations caring for mentally handicapped people after the Government axed the National Development Group in its place of quango.

New Skills, IDC, 126 Albert Street, London W1V 4NP. Tel: 01-252 1111. Fax: 01-252 1112.

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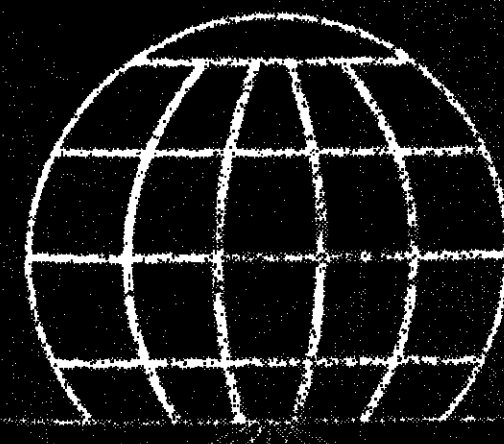
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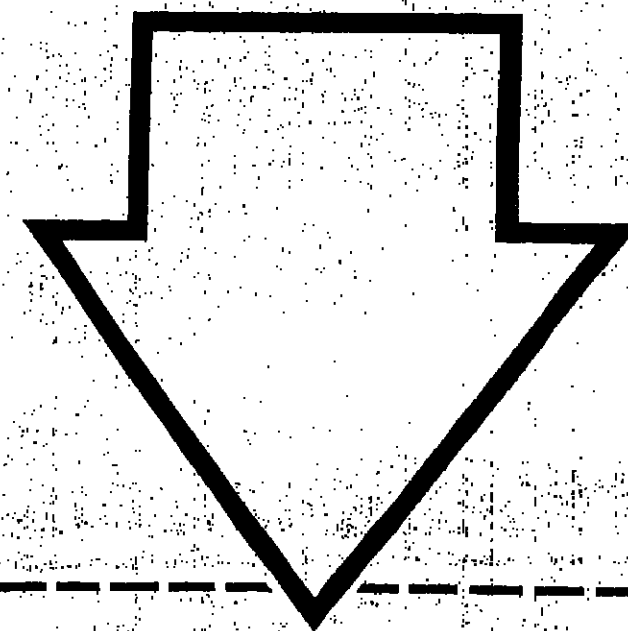
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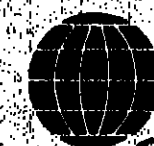
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TES 9.3

The appointment this week of Mr Jocelyn Stevens as rector of the RCA is a daring gamble on tough management

The man to bring back the zing

by David Walker, social policy correspondent of *The Times*

The Royal College of Art, training school of David Hockney, Zandra Rhodes and, further back, architect Edwin Lutyens and illustrator Kate Greenaway, has taken a gamble on which—some say—hinges its future as a free-standing institution.

As its third rector in the space of three years, the college has chosen not industrial designer, nor a creative artist with a gallery full of painting and sculpture, nor a sharp intellectual like Dr Lionel March, the outgoing rector who was effectively forced to resign because of internal opposition to his programme of reform.

Instead it has chosen a publisher and country landowner whose recreation is listed in *Who's Who* as shooting, a former deb's delight, whose contribution to the theory and practice of design—to judge from the pages of the *Daily Express* and *London Evening Standard*, papers he used to manage—is negligible: 52-year-old Mr Jocelyn Stevens.

The Stevens appointment is a huge risk. The publishing tycoon who skis at Gstaad and shoots in Scotland will have to accommodate himself to the world of art and design course validation, haggling with Department of Education officials over small sums and the well-attested bitchiness of the RCA's senior common room. If he doesn't and follows Dr March in resignation, the college could not continue in its present form: there would be immense external pressure, probably leading to its incorporation into the University of London.

Yet Mr Stevens' arrival, in the autumn, at the college's warren of buildings in South Kensington will also be a huge opportunity for an institution riven by argument and self-doubt in recent years.

It shows, for one thing, that the Establishment old guard who stock the RCA's council and other external committees still have faith. Mr Stevens' appointment owes much to Lord Whitelaw's good friend, the former chairman of the BBC, Lord Howard of Henderskelfe, who has been connected with the RCA for many years and is currently its honorary treasurer. In the social circles in which both Lord Howard and Mr Stevens move, the RCA still has a cachet denied most other institutions of higher education.

Perhaps more relevant to the RCA's immediate needs, Mr Stevens has been appointed to provide tough management, to get its finances in shape and, in the words of one enthusiast among



Jocelyn Stevens



Lionel March



David Hockney



Zandra Rhodes

its staff, to "make the place go with a zing again".

The RCA began life 150 years ago as a school of design run by the Board of Trade. After periods of glory in the mid-nineteenth century (notably in industrial and commercial design), in the early twentieth century (the fruition of the William Morris arts and craft movement) and again in the 1950s and early 1960s, the time of Hockney, Bridget Riley and all, the RCA appeared in the later 1960s to have a fixed place in higher education.

Awarding its own degrees and directly funded by the government, the college should have become the pre-eminent centre of excellence in art and design. Instead, during the 1970s it suffered from the competition of polytechnics which were both refining art and design education and innovating in such newer areas as computers and electronics. Unlike the institution with which it is directly comparable, the Cranfield Institute of Technology, the RCA eschewed industrial support for research and partnership with commercial firms in design.

With the appointment in 1981 of Dr March, some of these tensions rose to the surface. His very appointment caused resignations. On one side people such as Sir Terence Conran, founder of the Habitat 67, saw the appointment of Dr March, a Cambridge-trained architect and latterly

part of the regular university set-up did not assist Dr March's crusade for change.

Reluctant to muddy the waters, Dr March told *The TES* this week that now the college had made a choice about the new rector, he wished Mr Stevens well. "Hopefully everyone will back him, and give the college a chance."

The agenda is certainly full. The Inner London Education Authority is in the midst of a wholesale redrawing of the map of higher education in art and design, pondering the future of Central, Chelsea, Camberwell and St Martin's. It would be inconceivable that the RCA did not have a role in this rationalization.

There is money. As recently as 20 years ago nearly half the RCA's income came from research and development; now it is a tiny fraction. The college is dangerously dependent on its recurrent grant—£3.8m in 1984-85—from the government. Mr Stevens will have a task not only in shaking out his wealthy friends and cultivating endowments, but in boosting the industrial connexion.

There are students. Even before the fees were increased, the RCA was losing its international contingent of students. Dr March was convinced a special effort was needed rather like Professor Dahrendorf's at the London School of Economics to increase the number of non-British students studying at the RCA's still unrivalled array of studios and workshops.

There are computers and the host of issues raised for art and design by the information technology revolution. "Unfortunately," Mr Russell Kirsch, head of artificial intelligence at the United States National Bureau of Standards, said in an open letter to the college, "the RCA is grossly under-equipped in the necessary technology."

Dr March's own words: "The UK communications industry has an estimated £14 billion turnover a year and I am convinced that the college has a major contribution to make to this industry, which is as yet not well served by higher education. I expect the commission's report to challenge current subject divisions and priorities within the college."

Neither Dr March's polysyllabic papers on the "aesthetic state" nor his enthusiasm for academic collaboration with other institutions such as the Imperial College of Science endeared him to the rather inbred teaching force in Kensington Grove. Contemporary pressures on finance and murmurings from Elisabeth House that both ministers and officials would not be reluctant to see the RCA become

'Lip service'angers director

by Diane Spencer

The retiring director of Coombe Lodge, the national staff training college for further and higher education, has delivered an angry parting shot at the Government and local authorities.

In his farewell statement in the college's latest annual report, Mr Gordon Wheeler points out that the students' union of a single polytechnic gets more from public funds than Coombe Lodge.

"Thus do I write in anger—of course, the resources for any activity are scarce and should be carefully husbanded—that is what the staff college is all about. It is not difficult, however, to see the almost unashamed and unaccounted profligacy in public expenditure which abounds, while little more than lip service is paid to the work of the college."

Local authority grant support had fallen by 8 per cent since his appointment in 1977. Yet fee income had increased by 33 per cent, publication income by 22 per cent, members by 12 per cent and operating weeks by 6 per cent. Research and development projects yielded £130,000.

"One may ponder why financial support for such agencies as the Further Education Unit, Open Tech, Council for National Academic Awards and the Manpower Services Commission is so relatively generous and expanding while the single institution concerned with improving the management of further and higher education is so hamstrung," he said.

Governments and local authorities had praised the work of the college during its 25 years' existence, but they still failed to take staff training seriously enough.

The significant changes proposed by the Government in its recent White Paper, *Training for Jobs*, made it more urgent to "invest in the management training of FE staff." An investment which should match that already being made in the selection and management training of school heads.

"It is too much to expect a staff college with a dozen academic staff to provide the services asked for and required by a service which has nearly 1,000 institutions and at least 200,000 staff."

Mr Wheeler, 61, was a former deputy director of Coombe Lodge and before that head of the management studies department at Slough Technical College. His successor will be chosen this week.

The Further Education Staff College, Report on the year 1983, Coombe Lodge, Bagnall, Bristol, BS18 6RG.



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£88,000 extra to aid Welsh

Ministers have set aside an extra £88,000 to foster the Welsh language in further and higher education. The grant is to be paid in three instalments of £29,000, the first in 1984-85, the second in 1985-86 and the third in 1986-87. The grant will be used to fund projects such as education authorities and colleges will be £241,000 in 1984-85, compared with £153,000 in 1983-84.

The largest grant to a voluntary body will go to the Welsh Books Council, which will get £34,000. The grant will be used to fund projects such as education authorities and colleges will be £241,000 in 1984-85, compared with £153,000 in 1983-84.

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Commons group produces second video nasties report

by Carolyn O'Grady

A second report sponsored by MPs, and sent to 7 to 16-year-olds have been shown on television. The report, which was produced by the Commons group, is the second in a series of reports on video nasties.

The report, which was produced by the Commons group, is the second in a series of reports on video nasties. It is based on a survey of 1,000 parents, which found that 40 per cent of parents had seen one or more violent films on television. The report also found that 40 per cent of parents had seen one or more violent films on television.

The first report was published last November and stated that 40 per cent of children in England and Wales had seen one or more violent films on television. The report also found that 40 per cent of parents had seen one or more violent films on television.

According to the report, more than half of the children who had seen one or more violent films on television had seen one or more violent films on television. The report also found that 40 per cent of parents had seen one or more violent films on television.

apparently to meet the needs of a bill to ban video nasties.

The report, which was produced by the Commons group, is the second in a series of reports on video nasties. It is based on a survey of 1,000 parents, which found that 40 per cent of parents had seen one or more violent films on television.

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Qualified peace studies truce declared

Nick Wood reports from the weekend peace studies conference at which Sir Keith Joseph extended both a handshake and a fist

Peace studies are not unacceptable in the classroom providing certain safeguards against bias and indoctrination are met. This qualified approval came from Sir Keith Joseph, speaking at a conference in London on peace education in schools organized by the National Council of Women of Great Britain.

Sir Keith said that peace studies, a term he regretted because of deplorable attempts to exploit the connotations of the word "peace", did not merit the status of a separate subject on the school timetable.

Instead, teachers should deal with the morality of war, the causes of war, and one-sided or two-sided disarmament, as and when they "cropped up" in other subjects such as history, physics or English.

"As pupils mature they ought to be encouraged to apply their reasoning powers to these and other important issues of the day. The approach in the classroom should be rational and not emotional," Sir Keith said.

"Since such subjects will come up naturally in the curriculum there seems

to be no need to make special space for studies labelled peace."

Questioned later, the Education Secretary said that he did not intend to imply that teachers should refrain from planning lessons and preparing materials on the nuclear issue.

"The words 'crop up' did not mean the emergence of the subject must be left to pure chance. A teacher in handling such subjects as physics, history, English or general studies can prepare the ground for a discussion to emerge."

Despite the broadly liberal thrust of his remarks (his speech was "greatly welcomed" by Mr Colin Reid, secretary of the Peace Education Network) Sir Keith savaged those who would use the classroom as a political platform.

Referring to i.e.s. moves to draw up guidelines for teaching peace studies,

he said: "I deplore such attempts to trivialize the substance of the issue of peace and war... and to present it so one-sidedly that if the teacher adopted the guidance he would be guilty of indoctrination."

"Such attempts are an insult to the teaching profession and a disservice to the cause of education in an open society."

"I deplore attempts to preach one-sided disarmament to primary pupils ('Babes against the Bomb') under the guise of teaching them, as they must be taught, to be kind and considerate to others; or to offer older pupils only one of the many views about national defence."

"Teachers should not be asked, let alone obliged, to promote a certain view of the issue of peace and war, whether this takes the form of inviting consent to the present Government's defence policy as a practical duty or to

the programme of the CND."

Afterwards he said he had studied the guidelines drawn up by Avon and Nottinghamshire, the two councils that had finalized plans for peace education.

He was relieved to find that the "wild words" of some local politicians had not surfaced in these documents. The introductions to both of them were "impeccable in their objectivity", but he regarded the syllabus content as "unanimous".

The Education Secretary also told the conference of the "scrupulously professional approach" he expected from schools and teachers dealing with controversial matters.

The teacher should present his material as objectively as possible, double check his facts, avoid an unbalanced or superficial selection of facts and encourage pupils to reach rational judgments.

He agreed it was a tall order, especially when the teacher was faced with less able pupils and had to combine making complex material intelligible to them without distortion and over-simplification.

"If a teacher is asked by his pupils for his own view he should, as appropriate, declare where he himself stands, but explain at the same time that others, in particular the pupils' parents and other teachers, may disagree with him."

Sir Keith said that some, perhaps many, teachers achieved such a scrupulous approach, but he was satisfied that some did not. His evidence consisted of "press cuttings" and "half a dozen" letters of complaint from parents.

He invited parents to contact him personally if they could get no satisfaction from schools and i.e.s. over complaints about classroom coverage of peace and war.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour education spokesman, is to ask Sir Keith Joseph in the Commons how many complaints he has had about the teaching of peace studies and what representations he has had from the Inspectorate.

HMI defends teachers

Mr John Slater, the HMI responsible for history, offered no support for Sir Keith's assertion that some teachers are biased in their coverage of the nuclear issue and seek to indoctrinate pupils.

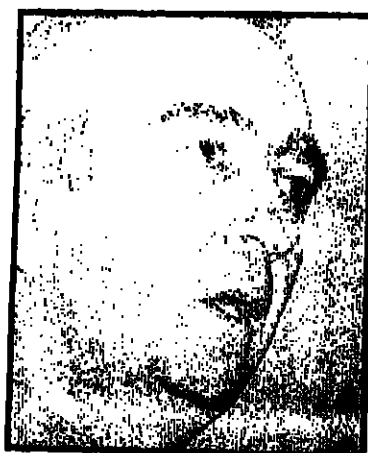
"The vast majority of teachers who are trying to teach controversial issues, only one of which is peace and war, are trying desperately hard to do it with a degree of professional integrity," he told the conference, a couple of hours after the Education Secretary had left.

"Some do it well, some do it badly, some are experienced, some are inexperienced. Very rarely indeed is the problem that they are doing it with a deliberate degree of unprofessionalism."

Mr Slater said this position was based on "close contact" between HMI and schools, teachers and advisers up and down the country. He ruled out the possibility that subversive teachers had in some way hoodwinked the Inspectorate.

"If there was a determined and persistent attempt by individuals to indoctrinate (pupils) they would not be able to keep it secret."

Mr Slater said peace studies (he preferred "education for peace") had a "long and honourable" pedigree. It should be seen as one aspect of political education, which in the last 15 years



John Slater HMI



Sir Keith Joseph

had become more skills-based and concerned with live issues, and could trace its development back to the "civilized" of Victorian times.

Education for peace was rarely found in a school as an identifiable and separate part of the curriculum, but it was often covered as part of established subjects such as history or English.

The current accent on studying differing areas of conflict with the aim of finding ways of achieving resolutions without recourse to violence has posed special problems to the HMI, Mr Slater added.

Nevertheless, most education for peace was not concerned with the bomb or cruise missiles, the Inspector said. Topics such as bullying, vandalism and football hooliganism loomed largest.

"Most characteristic of schools looking at education for peace is a ruthless examination of their own styles of running their own communities. Schools are beginning to ask if the style

and governing ethos of the whole school community pays enough attention to solving problems by avoiding conflict and diminishing concentration."

"They may not always succeed, but this is a very important change of emphasis in schools, this is the most important spring of education for peace that I have seen."

Mr Slater concluded that teachers had to tread a delicate path between an over-emphasis on the problems of the world and a narrowly introspective view.

"If the result of teaching about war, peace and violence in society is merely to leave a class full of frightened children without the kinds of skills with which they can come to terms with, and perhaps diminish their fears, the system has done a great disservice."

"If on the other hand they (schools) give young people the idea there is nothing to be frightened of, they engage in a confidence trick."

Union calls for impartial approach

by Richard Garner

Teachers who dodge the issue of peace studies in their schools lack professionalism, a leading member of the National Union of Teachers said this week.

Mr John Perry, vice-chairman of the union's international committee, made the remark at the launching of a new NUT publication, *Education for Peace*, which was being sent this week to all the union's branches to get teachers talking about peace education.

The document says teachers would critically examine their teaching materials to combat "militarism and chauvinism". In the same way as they already look at textbooks for "racist and sexist overtones".

It also suggests that local branches of the union should press local education authorities to appoint advisers with responsibilities for peace studies.

Mr Perry said that the union would agree with Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, when he deplored attempts to appeal to emotion by the use of the word peace and warned against indoctrinating children.

Other union leaders stressed the importance of teachers presenting

peace studies in an impartial manner. Mr Don Winters, the union's president, said: "The union is most strongly of the view that the presentation of the issues should be fair and impartial."

"However, they also pointed to the need to raise questions on the subject. Mr Perry said: 'I do find it extraordinary that teachers have run things like canteen forces and have been officers in the army corps - yet nobody would dream of accusing them of being

warmongers or provoking a blood-lust among young people.'

"I wouldn't accuse them of that either - but by the same token, if teachers talk about peace, nobody should accuse them of indoctrination."

The document says the "increased awareness of the threat of nuclear annihilation" has increased the demand for teachers to cover peace and disarmament issues in the classroom.

"The union deplores attempts to disrupt proper professional approaches to peace education by imputing political motives to professional involvement in curriculum development," it says.

It adds that teachers have a responsibility to help their pupils formulate views on important areas of public debate - and should not therefore ignore the arms race.

However, it continues: "Although the union would assert that disarmament is a legitimate area of classroom study, it is concerned that peace education should not be seen as relating exclusively to that issue."

The emphasis on developing skills to resolve conflict peacefully is important and has applications for the pupils' whole career.



The cover of the NUT publication Education for Peace.

IN BRIEF

Tories raise brainwash issue

Conservative MPs' concern about the brainwashing of schoolchildren appears to have been heightened by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary (see opposite page).

An early day motion calling for an amendment to the 1944 Education Act "to prevent the political indoctrination of others at school" has been attracting signatures steadily over the past few weeks, but the list suddenly grew from 60 to 100 after the speech. Those signing include both left and right-wing Conservatives.

Mr Giles Radice, Labour education spokesman, is to ask Sir Keith Joseph in the Commons how many complaints he has had about the teaching of peace studies and what representations he has had from the Inspectorate.



Race study

The Inner London Education Authority is carrying out a survey of schools and college governing boards to see how well black people are represented on them.

Mrs Frances Morrell (pictured), leader of ILEA, thinks that black people are under-represented and is anxious to see them take part in decision-making. Governing bodies are due to be re-constituted in 1985 so the authority needs to find out the true picture in good time, she said.

A short questionnaire is being sent to each governing body which uses categories of ethnic background recommended by the Commission for Racial Equality.

Tertiary nod

A Leicestershire tertiary scheme has been approved by Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary. He wrote to the county council on Tuesday giving the go-ahead to plans to remove the sixth forms from seven 11-18 comprehensives in the Leicestershire and Leicestershire area and to set up a tertiary college based on Blackburn College of Technology and Design.

Memorial service

A memorial service for Sir Lionel Russell, the former Chief Education Officer of Birmingham who died last month, is to be held in Birmingham Cathedral on March 23. The Civic Thanksgiving service will be held at 11 am and attended by the Lord Mayor. All former colleagues and friends are invited.

Drug conviction

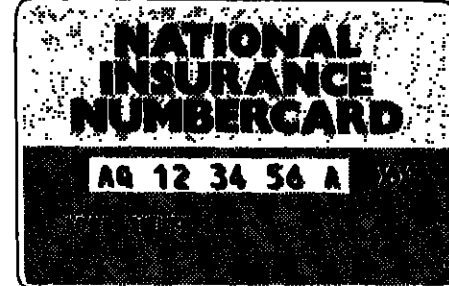
A Leicestershire was last week jailed for nine months after being convicted of dealing in cannabis worth over £1,500. Mr Michael Allart, 35, of Cemetery Road, Leicestershire, was found guilty at Wood Green Crown Court of possessing and supplying the drugs. He was also given a nine-month suspended jail sentence and ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

Officer elect

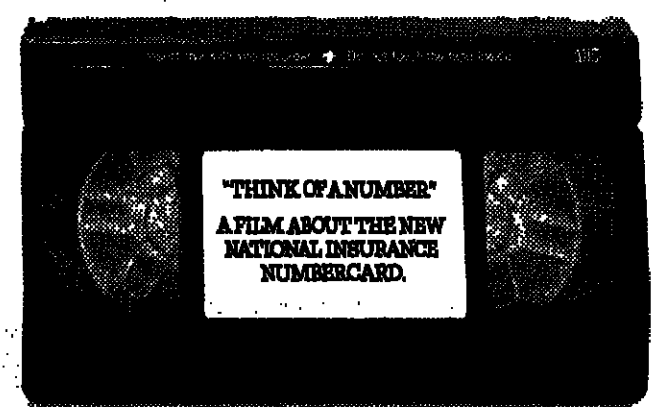
Ms Natalie Whitbread, principal lecturer in education at Leicester Polytechnic, is the Vice-president elect of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. Ms Whitbread, aged 34, was one of the first women to be NATFHE president.



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U-matic, V2000 and 16mm film formats (as well as VHS and Betamax) are also available on short-term loan to all potential users. Use the coupon to get further details.

Issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

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TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

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NAB chief calls for greater access to HE

by Biddy Passmore

A system of two-year mandatory grants with the right to free tuition for a third year of higher education was proposed last week by Mr Christopher Ball, chairman of the board of the National Advisory Body for local authority higher education (NAB).

Mr Ball, who was addressing the annual meeting in London of the



Christopher Ball

Association of Colleges for Further and Higher Education, also suggested that some public sector colleges should concentrate on providing two-year qualifications, which could become pass degrees.

He was commenting on the 150 responses NAB has so far received to its strategy document on the future of higher education as well as describing his personal response.

The fundamental question was access, he said. The Robbins principle had worked well enough for the past 20 years but would prove to be inadequate as a yardstick for the future.

First, the idea of the qualified student must be expanded to include qualification by experience, not just by examination and certificate. Secondly, Robbins had led higher education to concentrate almost exclusively on full-time and sandwich courses for 18-year-old school-leavers, thus overlooking the needs of mature students for adult and continuing education, often part-time.

Thirdly, Robbins had suggested - wrongly - that there was a natural level of access to higher education, whereas access was in fact managed.

"It is one of the special tasks of public sector higher education to explore the limits of access and to see how far it is possible to extend opportunities for higher education without sacrificing the quality of the education offered and while maintaining the provision of personal and social and economic benefits," he said.

"I do not believe we have at all nearly approached these limits yet."

It was essential to plan across sectors, Mr Ball said, and to ensure "dispersed access" because the non-traditional student was more often attracted to a local college. He welcomed the extension of the UCCA system to polytechnics as an imaginative first step towards an integrated system of admissions to UK higher education but doubted if it would be possible to include part-time courses. On the contentious question of a

two-year initial qualification, he conceded that most responses, including that by Mr Peter Brooke, higher education minister, had been hostile. They had argued that the three-year honours degree was the best and most cost-effective qualification for most students.

"Nevertheless," he continued, "the initial two-year qualification is not a hypothesis - but an actual fact for many students today. And public sector higher education (if not the universities, as yet) has to confront the question of striking the right balance between opportunities for the three-year honours degree, on the one hand, and for a two-year course (possibly, but not necessarily, to become a pass degree), on the other."

He believed it would be the special role of some - not a few, but not all - public sector institutions to concentrate on the provision of two-year full-time courses and their longer, part-time equivalents, and to link them backwards to non-advanced further

education and forwards by credit transfer to degree courses.

Mr Ball said he did not expect extra funding for student grants over the next 10 years. But the rigidity of the existing mandatory grants system must be questioned so that the present amount of money could be more widely distributed.

The switch to a basic two-year grant would depend on allowing people to pursue their education while claiming social security. If that were allowed, some students would be able to support themselves for the last year of a three-year course. Others might leave school and enter employment and complete their third year later, either full or part-time. Others again might find a two-year course sufficient for their needs.

Mr Ball provoked some murmurs of disagreement when he said that the question of resources did not come first. "In my experience," he commented, "resources usually follow coherent purposes." But he provoked even more murmurs when he said public sector institutions should not regret it if the universities had more money.

"Do not regret it," he said, "if research funds are predominantly channelled to the universities - there is much to be said for the teaching sector. Do not regret it, if the unit of resource is higher on the other side of the binary line - there is much to be said for the cost-effective sector."

He said they should fiercely object, however, if the funds available were inadequate for the task that needed to be done.

He was immediately challenged on those points by Dr Bill Bosley, principal of Bath Technical College and vice-chairman of the association. It was very difficult to plan across sectors with the huge disparity in resources between the universities and the public sector, Dr Bosley said.

more local opportunities.

This loosening up of the degree structure should be combined with the growth of credit transfer. But the number of units making up a degree should be limited to minimize the loss of coherence in the curriculum.

There was a danger of creating a rigidly-divided system, "where low status colleges provide two-year programmes of mass higher education and elite institutions go on much as at present."

That could be avoided either through creating elaborate controls or giving all institutions far more freedom to determine their own functions, and the means to finance themselves to do it.

A high price for low drop-out

A lottery would be better than the present system of selecting people for higher education, Mr Oliver Fulton, lecturer at Lancaster University's Institute for Research and Development in Post-Compulsory Education, told the conference.

The present criteria - A levels, references and interviews - were only "very moderately associated" with degree success in most subjects, and set up barriers to access.

Among the alternatives, he suggested, were aptitude tests (such as those used in the United States), credit for life or work experience; profiles and learning contracts, where the applicant

undertakes to reach a certain level of knowledge or attainment.

Britain had probably reached the limit of full-time participation in higher education which the present structure could attract, he said, although the decline in the system by 1990 would probably be somewhat less than the decline in the number of 18-year-olds.

But that decline should be averted - because Britain's attitude to further and higher education was, by international standards, "the extreme case of anti-intellectualism and narrow utilitarianism", and because participation by different groups in society was unequal.

Britain paid a high price for its "efficient" higher education system, with a low full-time participation rate for 18-year-olds and a relatively high graduation rate for 21-year-olds, he argued. It meant that advanced courses were "an enormous all-or-nothing commitment" for students.

Participation would be increased if there were a shorter, less specific, introductory course. This could be the two-year introductory degree advocated by the Leverhulme inquiry (for which he was convenor of the demand and access seminar). This degree would be less daunting and could be provided by far more institutions, thus offering

The Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art now entering its 37th year is once again looking for talented young artists' work to display.

The best art and craftwork will be shown at six major galleries around Britain next year and each child whose work is selected for exhibition will receive a certificate (in the 1983 exhibition more than 800 works were selected).

Awards totalling over £12,000 can be made to pupils and schools at the judges' discretion, covering art, craft and poetry. In addition, the Cadbury Italian Art Tour can be won by up to six of the most talented children. A distinguished panel of judges, headed by Dr Harold Riley, will select work from four age groups, ranging from under 7 to 17 years of age.

The closing date for entries is 18th April 1984. Please complete the entry form below and ensure that each painting or craftwork bears a signed statement by a teacher or parent that the work is original and unaided. This should be written on the back of the painting or adhered to, tied to or enclosed with each craft entry.

For full rules and conditions of entry, if required, please send an SAE (22 cm x 15 cm or larger) to: Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art, Granby, School Lane, Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 6SZ.

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Cadbury's National Exhibition of Children's Art 1984

'Dead' languages very much alive

William Shakespeare may have had "small Latin, and less Greek" but nearly 400 years later the English public schoolboy still stands a good chance of receiving a classical education.

This is one of the main conclusions of a survey by HMI of classics teaching in independent schools which was published this week. The inspectors visited 33 schools in England and Wales, five of which were preparatory schools, and say that their findings should be interpreted with some care because all the schools chosen have a known commitment to the teaching of classics.

They found that many heads are still well disposed towards the classical languages and courses in the culture and history of the ancient world.

"There were only a few signs that the provision of classics in these schools were coming under any kind of threat," the inspectors say. "One head regarded classics as 'culturally valuable and a discipline in its own right'; another spoke of its 'combination of humanity and academic rigour'."

"It was, in the words of one, 'the *sine qua non* of a good school'."

Just occasionally, teachers and parents wanted classics elbowed aside to make room for more overtly vocational subjects.

The inspectors found much to praise, especially in the small groups of children studying O-level Greek.

Students appear to be in most cases

high and occasionally scintillating," they observe.

But they criticize schools for tending to gear their teaching to the most talented children. "The place of classics in a school's curriculum should be seen in terms of what it has to offer by way of an educational experience to all pupils, not just to some."

"Classical myth, legend and history are part of a general education. Appropriate courses in these aspects of classics can be made available in the early years, at the various levels of external examination and as an element in sixth-form general studies."

They urge schools to devise "intermediate objectives" for children unable or unwilling to pursue the subjects to O or A level.

The inspectors welcome the move away from a narrowly grammatical approach to classics. "A high proportion of the schools visited showed a high literary content in their work and, alongside an expanding acquaintance with literature, were seeking to develop the ability to read with care for detail and with a critical consideration of content."

Schools provided an abundance of textbooks for the pupils but overlooked the contribution historical remains could make to the teaching of classics, HMI adds.

Classics in Independent Schools. A survey by HMI, HMSO. Price £2.

Engineering departments overcrowded

Polytechnic engineering departments are "too often" badly housed, overcrowded and poorly equipped, says HMI Inspectorate.

Despite the drawbacks, inspectors found the students well-motivated and the staff "conscientious, adequate and competent." In addition some polytechnic-based research groups had

gained international reputations.

Thirteen polytechnic engineering departments were visited, catering for about a third of all engineering degree students in the country.

The Inspectorate found that in some cases, growth in enrolments had led to overcrowding which was affecting the teaching. There were few women on courses and there was a serious shortage of industrial placements for sandwich courses.

Computer facilities were particularly poor and much other equipment was becoming obsolete. "It is exceptional to find engineering departments of polytechnics housed in satisfactory, purpose-built accommodation that fully meets present-day needs," the report says.

Managing to be big without being impersonal

The Hewett Comprehensive School, Norwich, the largest in Norfolk, wins praise from the Inspectorate for its caring attitude towards pupils.

The school "does much to dispel the popular misconception that very large schools are necessarily impersonal institutions in which individual identities are lost," say the inspectors, who also praise the "imaginative, hard working and efficient" management team.

Hewett School, with 1,800 pupils on roll, was formed by a merger of three schools in 1970 and operates in three buildings. The staff have turned this to advantage by creating three small school communities.

But the inspectors add that this is not without cost. Subject departments tend to be scattered and departmental heads find it difficult to coordinate the

work. There are also shortcomings in specialist accommodation and equipment.

The inspectors are, however, lavish in their praise of classroom behaviour and discipline. "Almost every teacher was able to achieve calm in the classroom, creating 'a generally courteous atmosphere to which pupils respond.' Discipline is 'unobtrusive' and there is no corporal punishment. The school, says the Inspectorate, bestows a high level of confidence and trust on pupils, 'a trust which they respect.'"

The inspectors conclude: "The overriding impression of the school is one of considerate behaviour, mutual respect and courtesy between teacher and taught, and an atmosphere in which learning can flourish."

HMI has also praised Robert Shaw Primary School, Nottingham, for its good learning environment.

Good relations between staff and children allow pupils to develop initiative and self-discipline. The report singles out high standards in English, mathematics and music.

Among minor recommendations, the Inspectorate suggests a better display for school library books; a review of responsibilities among scale, post, holder, and more teaching of multicultural studies. The school has 13 per cent ethnic minority pupils.

It suggests reconsideration of curriculum leadership and guidelines, to increase the pace of work for more able pupils. But the school, the inspectors feel, has established a sound base from which to develop.

HMI reports

HMI reports are available free of charge from the Department of Education and Science, Publications Development Centre, House of Commons, London, W1A 0AZ. Also available from L.E.S.

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

International Specialist Courses

The Development and Production of ELT Materials

24 June - 6 July 1984 at Strawberry Hill

The overall purpose of this course is to illustrate and to discuss those techniques used by professional ELT writers to develop a variety of exercise types which reflect a number of different approaches. The focus is on the expertise that underlies the development of different exercise types - the range of skills involved in preparing 'good' language teaching materials. A considerable amount of time will be spent in workshops.

The Director of Studies will be Dr Rod Ellis, Senior Lecturer in English at St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill.

The course is intended for (1) curriculum planners and teacher educators involved in the development and production of ELT materials and (2) senior teachers of English as a foreign or second language who are interested in developing their own teaching materials, either for use with their own students or for publication. Course members should be experienced ELT practitioners but need not be experienced in designing and writing ELT materials.

Fee £595 (Residential)

Science, Education and Society

22 July - 3 August 1984 in Bradford

Society is increasingly dominated by advances in science and technology in all parts of the world. There is a growing awareness of the need for all students to be exposed to the interaction of science, technology and society.

An important part of the course will involve an introduction to micro-computers with demonstrations and 'hands on' experience in the use of micro in education and administration.

The Director of Studies will be Professor Tom Stonier, Head of the School of Science and Society at the University of Bradford.

The course is designed for (1) those educators and administrators involved in various aspects of science curriculum development, in particular those becoming involved with the use of computers in education and (2) those involved in policy making decisions concerned with science, technology and society, from both the developed and developing areas of the world.

Fee £540 (Residential)

Developing Library and Information Studies Collections: An International Seminar

22 July - 3 August 1984 in London/Aberystwyth

Effective library collections in the field of library and information studies are vitally important, and insufficient practical recognition of their need has been given in many countries, thus failing to back up the education of students of library science and in turn affecting their own vocational development. This seminar will consider the main aspects of library provision that bear upon this. Members will assemble in London for a short study tour of relevant libraries, after which the seminar will take place in Aberystwyth.

The Director of Studies will be Michael Wise, Librarian of the College of Librarianship Wales.

The seminar is open to senior librarians of universities and colleges, graduate staff of departments of library studies and officers of library associations, who are concerned with developing library and information studies collections, from both the developed and the developing areas of the world.

Fee £785 (Residential only)

Special Educational Needs of Young Handicapped Children: An International Seminar

12 - 20 September 1984 in London

This seminar will focus on current world-wide concern for providing early intervention for young handicapped children's special needs from birth to starting school. Members of the seminar will be introduced to present practice in Britain, but the seminar will also provide opportunities for examining and discussing practice in participants' own countries. The programme will include lectures, film/video presentations and visits to the wide range of relevant facilities in and around London.

The Director of Studies will be Professor K W Wiedell, Professor of Educational Psychology (Children with Special Needs) in the University of London Institute of Education.

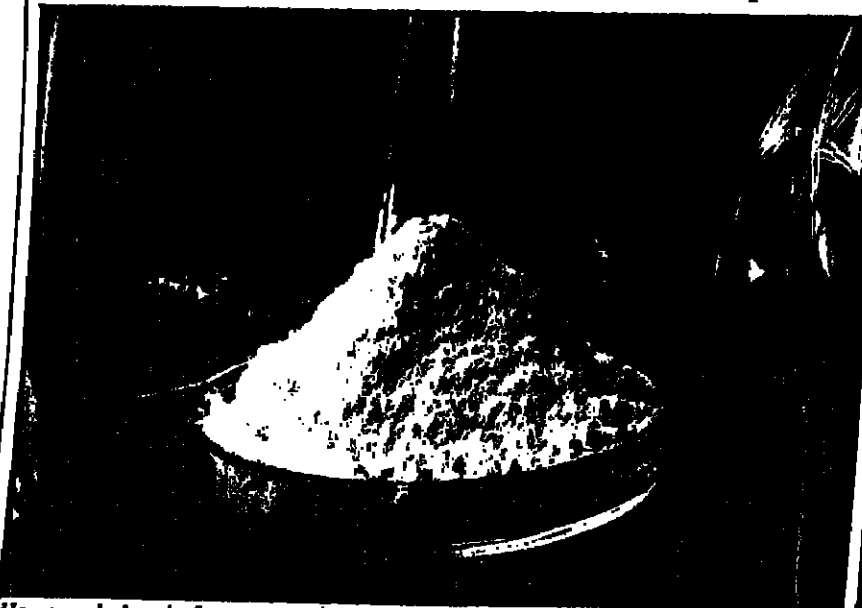
The seminar is intended for senior education, health and social services professionals concerned with young children who have special needs at home and at school.

Fee £485 (Residential)

Please quote reference TES/84.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from your local British Council office from the Director, Courses Department, The British Council, 65 Davies Street, London W1V 2AA.

A glut in the supply of heroin has forced the pushers to seek even younger markets. Mike Durham looks at the extent of the problem, two teenagers' stories, how one l.e.a. is planning to combat an epidemic, and what treatment is available



Home-made heroin from raw opium



One method used by youngsters to take heroin

Picture: Chris Schwarz/Aspect

The primary kids who fix at a fiver a time

A new and deadly craze among school children and one of which the average teacher may be completely unaware - is sweeping Britain's major cities.

Heroin, once thought of as a rare and expensive social menace confined to a small number of older addicts, is now within the reach of teenagers. Children as young as 10 are able to buy the drug at £5 a time.

Contrary to press reports heroin "pushing" virtually never takes place on school premises, but children of school age are, without doubt, the prime target.

Police, advisory agencies and educational health workers all agree that something close to an epidemic of heroin use is under way, and that for the first time many of its victims are starting on the road to addiction while still at school.

Even so, nobody knows the true extent of the problem. One police drugs squad officer said: "There's probably more heroin available on the streets than ever before. We're looking at the beginning of an epidemic. And there's no doubt in my mind that the stuff gets into schools."

But the real extent of the problem won't show up for at least a year, when new figures are released. Then we'll see how bad it is.

A new and indiscriminate pattern of heroin use has emerged over the past three years as the drug's street price has dropped dramatically leading to cheaper and more plentiful supplies than ever before.

After the Iranian revolution, hundreds of refugees left for Europe. Unable to take out money or possessions, many brought their wealth in the form of heroin. One kilo of the white powder could be worth a small fortune.

Today, most is smuggled in from Pakistan. Last year street prices for heroin reached a record low at around £50 a gram, although the price has since risen to around £150. A seriously addicted heroin user might consume five grams a week.

Heroin dealers, anxious to dispose of a glut of the drug, began selling to younger and younger teenagers. They could see they're in a hot market. "Cattle," Woolley, Merseyside Drugs Council's full-time advice worker, explained.

"Ten-year-olds are now offered 'starter packs' of low grade heroin at £5 a time. The technique is usually the same," says Carole Woolley. "A pusher will give the stuff free to a

teenager three or four times running saying it will make them feel good.

"When the child has got used to it, suddenly they find they have got to pay. It's the start of the downhill slope."

"Teenagers often never realise they're using heroin. Pushers employ a schoolchild's argot - they call it 'loopy dust', 'happy dust' or 'angel dust'. Unlike older addicts, teenagers rarely inject heroin. Instead it is smoked or inhaled - a technique known as 'Chasing the dragon'.

Heroin is pre-mixed with impurities such as sugar, talcum powder or even aspirin. The mixture is then rolled into a ball and heated in a foil container. The powder is placed on tin foil and heated from beneath with a candle. Fumes given off are inhaled through a straw.

Although this method is less immediately risky than injection, drugs experts say it is just as dangerous in the long run. "It is a mistake to believe that

heroin taken this way is any less addictive," said one.

As the addiction takes hold, usually over a period of weeks, children find themselves needing more and more of the drug. They may turn to shoplifting, mugging or even teenage prostitution to raise the money.

But despite the dramatic effects of heroin addiction, in the long run, neither parents nor teachers may realise that a teenager is using the drug.

Although sensational reports circulate about playground pushers, starting young pupils at the school gates, drugs counsellors say there is little evidence that this actually takes place. "Most trafficking and use of heroin in fact takes place in the school toilets or behind the bicycle sheds, but at home. Young teenagers are often introduced to the drug by older brothers and sisters who then take them to meet dealers. Many seriously addicted pupils become

truants anyway, automatically removing the problem from the school environment.

Even the most vigilant teachers may not spot the signs of drug dependency at its early stages in a pupil. Smoking leaves no tell-tale needle marks. Other signs, such as anti-social behaviour, listlessness, truancy or trouble with the police may be put down to normal adolescent problems.

In fact, contrary to the popular image of heroin addicts, many teenagers may continue living an outwardly normal life while their dependence builds up. "People think of heroin addicts as scruffy, long-haired, hippy types," said one expert. "In fact, many continue to cope quite well for a long time."

It may be only after they leave school, and have to cope with the pressures of leaving home, looking for a job, or paying rent that dependence becomes a problem for the addict as well as others.

Anne Prendergast, a counsellor with the Blenheim Project which advises on drug dependency, said: "Kids do seem to be using heroin earlier than they were. But it's not a problem for them while they're young. People can go through their lives functioning normally. Other people don't necessarily know."

Ultimately, though, an addict will usually face the choice between seeking help to "come off" the drug, or continuing with a dependency which may be expensive, anti-social, crippling, dangerous and often fatal.

Headteachers are reluctant to discuss an issue as sensitive as drug abuse. On the Wirral, the head of Prenton Girls School would not comment on allegations that at least one girl had been in trouble after being caught smoking heroin at home.

But the head, Mrs Judy Irwin, said: "In common with other headteachers, it's one of many areas of concern to us - something we may come into contact with some time or another."

Mrs Irwin is a teacher representative on the preliminary steering group for Wirral's planned drugs alerting procedure.

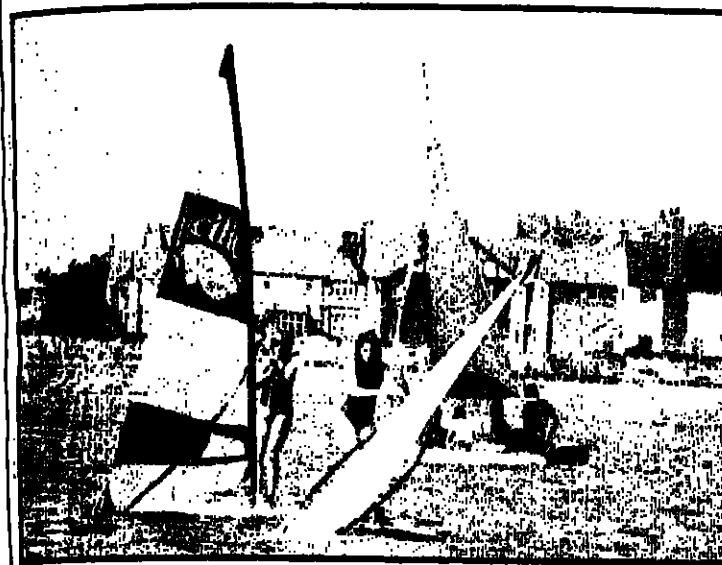
Mr P J Allen, head of Woodchurch School, also on the Wirral, said that the school would be taking part in any alerting procedure.

Meanwhile at Haverstock School, an inner-London comprehensive, Mrs Valerie Jenkins, headteacher, said: "There are plenty of drugs circulating in this area. But there is absolutely no evidence that any of the children are involved with them. We've had memoranda from the authorities, and the teachers know what to look for."

Mr J K Pritchard, head of Scott Lidgett Boys' School, Rotherhithe, south London, said the school, educational welfare service and juvenile bureau had had to take action over glue sniffing. "We keep a watchful eye out for that - but not for anything as hard and nasty as heroin."

Last week police arrested 10 teenagers in Rotherhithe and Bermondsey, after a raid on council estates where 'heroin addiction' was said to have reached 'epidemic proportions'. Local residents had complained of being 'terrified' by addicts, some as young as 12.

Worried Wirral plans drugs watch team



Wirral... heroin problem in a middle-class setting

Heroin use among teenagers on Merseyside is so rife that schools are being urged to set up a drugs monitoring procedure, involving teachers, health, welfare agencies and the local education authority.

Suburban housing estates on the Wirral, a once fashionable suburb of Liverpool, are said to be so riddled with heroin pushers that the area has been dubbed "Smack City".

Faced with this problem Wirral is holding talks on a scheme with teachers, governors, parents' groups and health workers, to try to identify and help heroin users early on.

In a limited development, Wirral health authority experts have produced a 40-minute video for showing in school staff rooms, to inform teachers how to recognize and cope with drug abuse among pupils.

Merseyside is a depressed area although with Liverpool still a busy port - one through which drugs frequently pass - it is commonly believed to be the centre of Britain's latest heroin epidemic. Estimates vary, but Merseyside Drugs Council, which studies on drug problems, reports a 60 per cent increase in referrals in 1983 compared with the previous year. Most were on heroin.

And the drugs council admits the problem is affecting schools. "In our day it was smoking behind the bicycle sheds," said chairman Mr Bill Skelton. "Now we're concerned that young children are going straight on to heroin."

In 1983, 37 children under 16 sought help from the drugs council, and all of them were on heroin; one was only 10. Of 60 clients in the 16-18 age group, 70 were on heroin and the rest on solvents. In all, of the 288 heroin users who came to the centre in 1983, 107 were under 18.

Drugs council staff believe they see only a fraction of the problem. Although, according to some informed estimates, there could be as many as 1,600 teenagers occasionally using heroin on the Wirral alone.

Although the drugs council tries to involve teachers and headteachers when a school pupil asks for help, it says there is little evidence that the drug is being used on school premises or pushed in school playgrounds.

"We've no real evidence that heroin is being pushed in playgrounds or at the school gates. A lot of seriously affected pupils are truants, anyway," said one counsellor.

But teachers are being urged to be aware of the possibility of heroin use by quite young teenagers. Mr Cyril Nelson, Wirral's chief health education officer, has met the problem of how to keep teachers informed by producing a 40-minute video for in-school training.

"The average teacher hasn't studied drugs since he or she doesn't know what to look for," said Mr Nelson.

Wirral's deputy director of education, Mr Robert Newman, confirmed that the "video" is consulting with teachers and headteachers over an alerting procedure, but declined to discuss the scheme until it had been fully agreed.

The price of addiction

Jimmy was only 11 and a rebellious, emotionally unstable child when he was first offered heroin by older boys.

According to his story, told in the *Liverpool Echo*, within two years he was hooked and spending £20 a day on the drug.

Jimmy lost interest in school and started playing truant. Sometimes he stayed away for days, stealing from shops and eventually going on a crime spree to finance his addiction.

He was suspended from school and his distraught parents found it impossible to persuade another school to take him because of his record.

Jimmy was sure he was doing himself no harm because he was not injecting himself, according to the account. Eventually Merseyside Drugs Council helped him give up by counselling.

Even so, his counsellor said: "At the moment he doesn't have a future... unless he is given as much help as he needs then he will very probably revert to heroin."

Led astray by friend

Mary was a bright and capable 12-year-old, who had just started at a new school and seemed to her teachers to be potential university material - until she met a 17-year-old boy named Mick.

He turned her on to heroin, according to the *Liverpool Echo's* account. "I didn't think there was any danger if you smoked it," she later told drugs counsellors. It was months before her parents or teachers found out.

Her school work suffered and she began to play truant. Then she started to steal from her home and the school and was finally suspended for truancy. Mary's parents found out about her heroin use and took her for counselling.

She has since successfully given up the drug. Now education authorities are pressing Mary's parents to return her to school. But drugs counsellors fear that Mary, if under pressure, may resort to heroin, with the real danger of her being forced into prostitution to pay for it.

FISSION AND FUSION

FOUR NEW FILMS ABOUT ATOMIC ENERGY



All Around Us: Radiation (25 minutes)

This film explains radiation, how it was discovered, what it is and how it is measured. Its applications and possible effects on health are considered. The film shows how radiation is used to our benefit in industry, medicine and research.

The Energy Problem - The Nuclear Solution (16 minutes)

This film examines the world's energy situation, including the renewable sources of energy, solar, wind and wave power and our existing resources of coal, oil and gas, and explains the contribution nuclear energy can make now and in the future.

Nuclear Fusion: Energy for the 21st Century (25 minutes)

Since 1978, Culham Laboratory in Oxfordshire has been the centre for a joint European nuclear fusion research project. This film traces the development of fusion research that has led to the construction of the Joint European Torus.

I Work In Atomic Energy (21 minutes)

This film portrays the differing skills and outside interests of four UKAEA personnel. In this way the film presents a picture of the corporate endeavour and individual enterprise within the Authority.

These films have been produced for the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. All titles are available in 16mm film or video formats on free loan, or sale at £11.75 exclusive of VAT. These charges are subject to change without notice. Prices for titles on systems other than VHS and Betamax will be quoted individually. All films and video tapes can be obtained from Film Library, Viscom Ltd., Park Hall Road Trading Estate, London SE21 8EL. Tel: (01) 767 3095.

OTHER SERVICES The UKAEA make use of a wide range of media to explain nuclear energy: Video lectures and slide-tape packs, Photographs, Teaching Pack, Mobile exhibition, ATOM monthly magazine, Publications, Speakers' service, Visits, Information service. Further details are available from Information Services, United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, 11 Chatter Box Street, London SW17 4QP. Tel: (01) 930 8454.

UKAEA

Too young for treatment

Teenage heroin users often find it difficult to get treatment or help because they are too young, according to experts on drug dependency.

"They are not regarded as old enough for treatment centres, and hospitals won't accept them for detoxification," said drugs counsellor Carole Woolley.

"They are simply turned away. There is too much pressure on the facilities available. The only thing they can do is try to get treatment from a sympathetic GP."

Opinions differ on how to keep a heroin user away from the drug. Some clinics use methadone, a drug similar to heroin, but regarded as less dangerous. Methadone prescriptions are gradually cut down to reduce the dependence.

But one problem is that registered addicts, prescribed the alternative drug, often sell the methadone and use the money to buy a new 'fix' of heroin.

Other authorities recommend closed units in which addicts agree to cut themselves off from contact with other drug users until they have undergone "cold turkey" - the agonizing withdrawal process which usually lasts about four to six days.

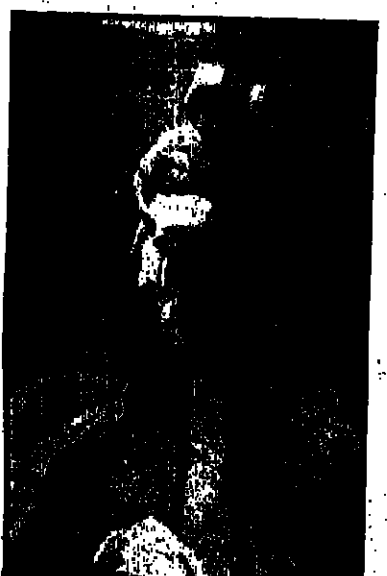
But even then addicts need motivation, support and advice. "Most addicts don't make it first time - it's quite normal for them to have a relapse. And there is nobody less likely to ask for help than an addict," said a counsellor.

A spokesman for the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse, an advisory

agency, said: "Most clinics have a waiting list of six or eight weeks, which is very bad news for someone who has just made the decision to come off heroin. In many areas of the country there are no facilities at all. That's why we would encourage GPs to become involved, although heroin addiction tends to come at the bottom of their lists at the moment."

One Essex GP, who treats heroin addicts, said: "The best way to get off it is at a centre of detoxification unit. But as there are no facilities at all locally, we decided to do it ourselves. The problem is a reducing dose of methadone."

Other GPs use similar heroin substitutes such as "Diconal" or maintain addicts on a controlled heroin dose until they can leave the drug behind.



What to look for...

Under influence of heroin
Glassy-eyed pupils
Constricted, pin-point pupils of eyes

Withdrawal from heroin between doses
Lethargy, listlessness and drowsiness
Dilated pupils of eyes

In very serious cases, when using large quantities, shaking, restlessness, runny nose, sweating, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea

General
Loss of interest in school, home and family
Isolation from normal everyday activities

Sudden weight loss
Worsening academic standards in school
Onset of mood changes, aggression, irritability

When the police are approaching or burgling in order to buy the drug

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Fifth of a series of conferences on "Computers in Higher Education" and a follow on from the Conference on "Involving Micros in Education" held at Lancaster in 1982. The emphasis will be on the use and application of microcomputers in education with particular reference to Mathematical Education having special regard to the variety of inputs and outputs that can be obtained.

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NOTICEBOARD

PEOPLE...

SCHOOL APPOINTMENTS
Mr William Hilton, headteacher of Clive First School, Osnabruck, West Germany, to be head of Harlands County Primary School, Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
Mrs Winifred Leake, deputy head at Lynminster County Infants School, to be head of Newwood Infants School, West Sussex.
Mrs Angela Walsh, head of St Alban's RC Primary School, London, to be head of St John's RC Primary School, Horsham, West Sussex.
Mr Michael Spilberg, senior master of Haslemere Preparatory School, to be head of Lyndhurst House Preparatory School, London.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



Dr Sally Tomlinson (above) has been appointed to a personal chair in the Department of Educational Research at Lancaster University.
Professor Harold Hankins has been appointed principal of UMIST (The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology), where he has been acting principal since July 1982.
Mr John E. Talbot and Sir Andrew Stark have been appointed pro-chancellors of the University of Essex until September 30, 1986.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS



Mr George Cunningham (above) former MP for Islington South and Finsbury, has been appointed chief executive of the Library Association.
Mr Michael Rickerts to be chairman of the British Atlantic Education Committee.
Mr Maurice Gifford to be general secretary of the National Association of Inspectors and Educational Advisers.
Trevor Duff has succeeded Frank Rosamond as Honorary Secretary of the Association of Vice Principals of Colleges.
The chairman of the Association of University Mathematics Education Teachers from April 1 will be Mr Keith Selkirk, school of education, University of Nottingham; and the honorary secretary will be Mrs J. Duffin, department of educational studies, University of Hull.

CONFERENCES...

March 14-15
Hackney ESL Conference on opportunities for people over 16 in adult and further education, Shoreditch Town Hall, 380 Old Street, London EC1. Details from Liz Vernon, Stoke Newington College, Clissold Road, London N16. Tel 01-249 1496.

March 15
The Education of the Illustrator: at the

Royal College of Art will consider the contrasting methods adopted in the teaching of illustration. Speakers include Quentin Blake, George Hollingworth, David Hillman, Brian Sanders and Christopher Freyling. Fee £20 or £7.50 for students. Details from Jill Matthews, Illustration Department, RCA, Kensington Gore, London SW7.

March 24
An open day on multi-racial education organized by Seward NUT at Churchbridge Teachers Centre, Oldbury, Warley from 9.30am-4pm. L.A. speakers, exhibitions and in-service training information.

March 24
The Association of African, Caribbean and Asian Academics is holding a joint conference with the Commission for Racial Equality on Testing Ethnic Minority Children and Equality of Opportunity at the Polytechnic of Central London, 35 Marylebone Road, London NW1. Principal speaker Professor Anderson Franklin. Details from Dr Peter Figueroa, Southampton University, Department of Education or Horace Lashley, Commission for Racial Equality, 10/12 Allington Street, London SW1.

March 29
The Role of the National Bureau for Handicapped Students in Post-School Education - the inaugural conference of the NBS Southern Region at King Alfred's College, Sparkford Road, Winchester SO22 4NR. Details from Mr Howard Rees, Principal, Portsmouth College of FE Tel: 0705 826435.

April 6-7
National Organization for initiatives in Social Education - two-day conference on implementing initiatives in Social Education at Warwick University, Westwood Site, Coventry. Speakers include John Watts, Val Millman and Mike Colby. Participants may choose one of the following workshop sessions: peace education, sex/mis, racism, active learning methods, residential experiences and pupil tutoring. Details from Brian Gillo, Ashton

Gifford School, Codford, nr Warminster, Wiltshire.

April 8-10
The Future of Education for Work and Leisure: a conference to mark and look beyond the 40th anniversary of the 1944 Education Act chaired by Sir James Hamilton. Contributors include Professor David James, Sir Alex Jarratt, Professor Tom Stoller, Sir Toby Weaver and Mrs Shirley Williams. Details from Mr James Strawn, Assistant Secretary, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 5XH.

April 12-15
The 21st anniversary congress of the European Association of Teachers will be held at the City University, Northampton Square, London EC1V 0HB. The theme is "Moving Forward in a European Context". Speakers include Professor Michael Wise, Mr David Coyne and Mr John Woolhouse. Residential fee from £40. Open to non-members. Full details from Miss Mary Duce, 20 Brookfield, Highgate West Hill, London N6 6AS.

EVENTS...

March 10-April 1
Schools Art and design by young artists from secondary schools in the York area at the City Art Gallery, Exhibition Square, York.

March 11
An Educational Computing Fair at Belmont Middle School, West Lane, Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire, for parents, teachers, pupils and educationists. Details from the headmaster, Mr Peter Williams.

March 17
The Saturday Morning Children's Theatre Club will open at the Shaw Theatre, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 from 10.30am-12.30pm. For all children aged 7-12. Activities include acting, mime, music, quizzes and visiting celebrities. Admission 50p. Details from Jane New at the theatre.

March 31 and April 7
Elaine Moss and Jill Slotover, compilers of

the Good Book Guide to Children's Books, will be available at the Good Book Guide Bookshop, 91 Great Russell Street, London WC1 between 10am and 3pm to answer questions.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Adventure Education - the journal of the National Association for Outdoor Education is published bi-monthly. The first issue contains articles on hypothermia, acclimatization, kayaking rescue methods in white water and general news and comment. Subscriptions £26 from Studies in Education Ltd, Nafferton, Driffield, North Humberside YO25 0UL.
Organization for Curriculum is the report of a project to study the curricular planning and provision for 11 to 14-year-olds in five Durham comprehensive schools. It is available from Terry Brown, University of Durham, School of Education, Leazes Road, Durham DH1 1TA, price £2 including postage.

INFORMATION WANTED

The board chairman and headmaster of The Granger Grammar School, founded six years ago by parental action, would like to contact other schools owned by parents with a view to preparing a provisional register and founding an association of parent-owned schools. Please contact Richard Harris, board chairman, and David Bell, headmaster, at the school, 35 Granger Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 8SA.

MA researcher would like to contact schools where short-term provision is made for children with mild learning difficulties. She is particularly interested in method of selection, curriculum offered and re-integration. Please write to Pauline Holdsworth, deputy headteacher, Nowsbury School, Bedale, North Yorkshire.

Compiled by Mary Czulchak

DES launches £2.5m drive to aid jobless

The long-heralded initiative by the Department of Education and Science to help the adult unemployed was unveiled this week.

Announcing the new programme, which will cost £2.5m over the next three years, Mr Peter Brooke, junior education minister, told the House of Commons on Monday that it would involve "the evaluation of innovative forms of provision, the identification and dissemination of good practice, and the mobilization of all the relevant interests, including voluntary agencies who are anxious to help."

The department is to appoint a small team of field officers to tell local authorities and voluntary organizations how best to use their resources and to coordinate their counselling and educational advice to the jobless.

DES officials estimate that, after the costs of running the field team have been met, there will be less than £250,000 over the three years to spend on development projects. So far, they are not drawing attention to the fact that the Manpower Services Commission has quietly decided to allocate at least as much - more in the first year - of its own money to supporting these activities.

The programme is the Government's interpretation of the role set out for the DES in the adult training

strategy proposals, in which the MSC assigned to the education service the job of integrating learning provision for the unemployed.

Ministers have rejected the recommendations of a study they commissioned from the Advisory Council for Adult and Continuing Education just before they abolished it, which proposed they should fund the appointment of a coordinator in each local education authority.

Edited by
Mark Jackson

Instead, there will be fewer than 10 officers to cover the country. They will be expected to disseminate examples of good practice, but will not have any money to back its implementation.

The programme will, however, fund development projects by selected organizations, likely to be mainly voluntary agencies, and will also try to sponsor national projects to improve awareness among the unemployed of the education and counselling facilities available.

Talks have already begun between the DES, the BBC, and the Open University over the possibility of running a series along the lines of the

Corporation's *On the Move* adult literacy programmes.

The DES team are particularly anxious that the immediate practical needs of the newly-jobless should be met - such as teaching them how to do their own home repairs or to preparing to live more cheaply when their redundancy money runs out.

The department is setting up a small steering group of its own officials, an HMI, and what are likely to be relatively junior officials from the Manpower Services Commission and the local authority associations.

Although the DES says the associations were fully consulted, their senior officers appeared this week to be only vaguely aware of the proposed programme, and were surprised by the Minister's announcement.

The voluntary agencies running adult education courses for the unemployed greeted the news with some incredulity in the light of the cuts the Government is making in their funding. When the cuts were announced Ministers promised some of them that they might hope to get some funding back under the forthcoming initiative, and their attitude will depend on how much is allocated to them.

The Workers' Educational Association, which last year provided courses for around 12,000 of the unemployed,

hopes it will be able to get back some of the £200,000 it is losing in grant over the next three years, but recognizes it will probably be competing with the university extra-mural departments which have suffered a much bigger cut.

The WEA's director, Mr Robert Lochrie, commented this week: "It looks as though they're paying for the whole thing with the money they've taken away from organizations like us."

Mr Nicholas Hinton, director of the National Council for Voluntary Services, said that the programme would simply add to the multiplicity of schemes that were already confusing the unemployed and those working to help them.

The best way of expanding the practical educational facilities for the jobless was to put more money into the highly successful Voluntary Projects Programme.
Mr Hinton said that there was a need for more coordination, but that the DES, which had no experience in this field, should leave it to the MSC as it knew much more about running programmes for the unemployed. "It's ironic that the Government should be handing over responsibilities in further education, which the DES does know about, to the MSC, while letting the DES move into the Commission's field" he said.



Nicholas Hinton

Colleges refuse to put their trust in King

Fears among colleges that they will face "jackboot approaches from little Wileys in the MSC" telling them what to do are entirely understandable, Mr Tom King, the Employment Secretary, has admitted.

But he failed to convince a conference of college principals and governors that it would not happen.

Mr Neil Pitso, director of education for Stockport, drew sustained applause from his meeting when he told Mr King: "The simple problem being us is that we no longer trust you."

Mr King had told the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education on Friday that he had instructed the Manpower Services Commission to ensure that its local managers treated the colleges with sensitivity and in a spirit of co-operation. He gave the conference his personal assurance that he would see that this was done, pointing out that he had control over the Commission.

But Mr King had already aroused the hostility of the audience by telling them that the Government's plan to divert enough money from the rate support grant to give the MSC control over a quarter of funding for non-advanced work-related courses would go ahead whatever happened, and any refusal by the local authorities to co-operate would mean that it would be implemented without adequate consultation. What he hoped was that there would instead be the closest co-operation between local authority staff and the area manpower boards whom he expected would be given the responsibility for ensuring that the

colleges had the right "customer approach".

Mr Roy Helmore, a Cambridgeshire principal who was for many years the education service representative on the MSC, said that he and many others felt some ambivalence towards the proposal.

Pleading for a more sensitive approach he told Mr King: "We are rather tired of being told so often that we have failed". Mr King hastened to assure the audience that he did not at all consider that the colleges had failed. "There is this problem of patchiness", he explained, adding that it existed in all kinds of organizations, including the MSC itself.

Mr Pitso said that the White Paper could only be read as implying that the colleges had failed employers. There was a great deal to be gained by closer co-operation but that was made more difficult by this latest in a catalogue of events which had eroded the traditionally close relationship between Whitehall and those working in local education. "It is a very sad thing to have to say, but that trust has gone", he said.

Mr Brian Sams, leader of the Tory opposition in the Association of Metropolitan Authorities said that this issue was the first in his experience that had united Tories and Labour in both the AMA and the Association of County Councils.

He warned the colleges: "Don't think you're going to get more money out of this. You may get some from the MSC, but it will be doled from the funding you get from the local authority."

textile engineering.

However, someone who shows a real interest in this field, with a real commitment to industry, and who is aiming for a degree course in the subject might be interested to apply for one of the National Engineering Scholarships.

This year, 300 are available - each worth £300 tax-free per annum and an offer to candidates proposing to begin relevant courses in 1984. While good academic potential is obviously important, outstanding academic achievements are not essential, considerable importance being attached to personal qualities and interests. "Scholarships", it is claimed "go to people who are good all-rounders".

Levels of entry for engineering courses currently range from A-level grades of around BBC down to CCD grades, the less popular production engineering being slightly lower.

Full details of the scholarships can be obtained from National Engineering Scholarships, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE17 7PH.

Careers Diary

by
Brian Heap

Because most sixth-formers limit their choice of engineering subjects to mechanical, electrical or electronic, it isn't often realized that choices include at least 140 other specialisms, from food processing and building services to minerals, polymer and

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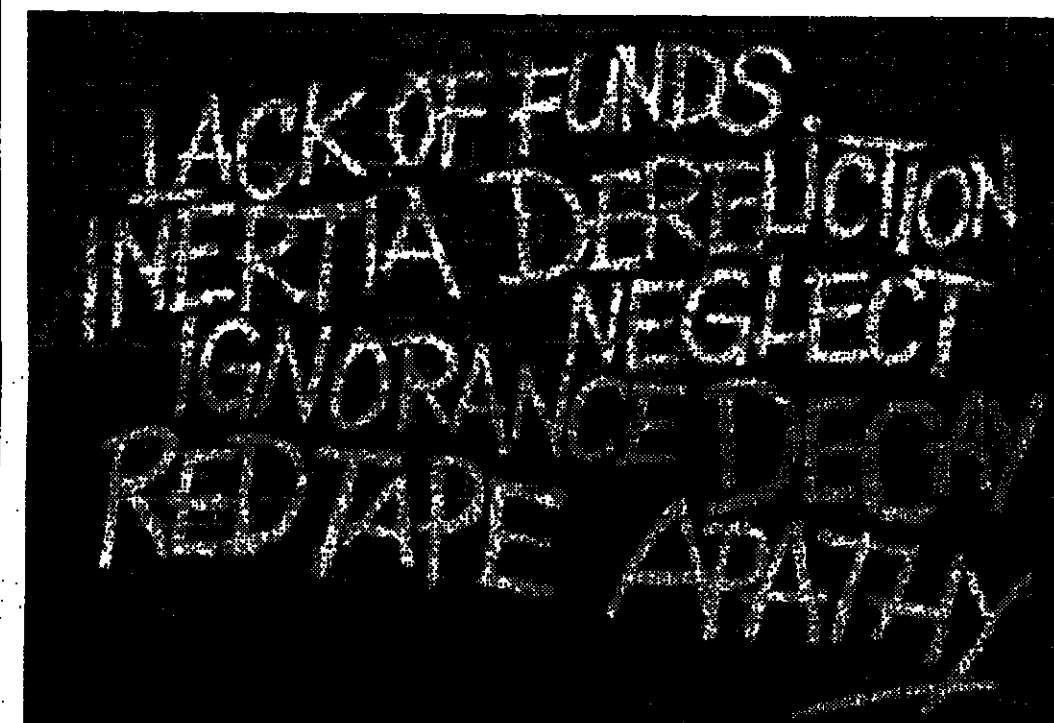
to use it will become an almost universal job qualification.

Yet it's a subject that girls in particular, for all the wrong reasons, tend to avoid. Which means girls need all the advice and encouragement you can give them. The EOC are sending out posters and literature to help you to help them; check if your school has received its copies.

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The master teacher comes to Tennessee

UNITED STATES

Peter David on one state's fight for pay incentives

In a victory that is expected to have widespread repercussions, Governor Lamar Alexander of Tennessee has at last overcome the opposition of teacher unions and introduced legislation calling for widespread changes in the career patterns of the state's teachers.

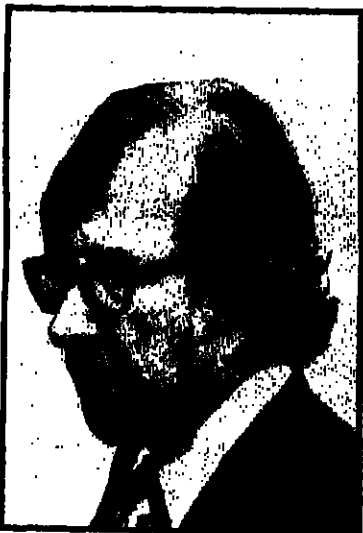
The centrepiece of the scheme will be the creation of a master teacher system that will enable teachers who do their job exceptionally well to qualify for annual pay bonuses of up to \$7,000 (£4,600). It also introduces a rigorous apprenticeship for beginning teachers and a five-rung career ladder with stringent checks on teachers' performance at every step.

Although the new system will have an immediate impact on the state's 46,000 teachers, its significance extends beyond Tennessee. Governor Alexander was one of the first champions of the master teacher concept and one of the first state governors to try to sell the idea to a powerful and suspicious teachers' union, the Tennessee affiliate of the National Education Association. The fact that he has won - albeit after a year of patient negotiation - is a signal to other states that union opposition can be overcome.

The creation of master teachers with enhanced pay and prestige was strongly endorsed in last year's report by the National Commission on Excellence in Education. It is supported in principle, but not with money, by the Reagan Administration as a way to encourage talented students, who are currently put off teaching by low pay, to consider a career in education.

Despite their original rejection of the scheme, Tennessee teachers had an important reason to keep talking to Governor Alexander. He made it clear from the start that the union's agreement to some sort of incentive pay scheme could lead to a big increase in spending on education. In the event, the state has agreed to raise an additional \$300m for the education budget through bigger sales and business taxes.

But even the prospect of more money for education would not have won over the union had the governor not made a key concession to allay the anxiety of teachers already employed in Tennessee's schools. The concession, labelled the "toe in the water" rule, will enable teachers already serving in the schools to stay out of the new career structure, or try it out with the option of returning to the old scheme.



Albert Shanker: divisive move

Anxiety about the new system is understandable. In return for the chance to earn impressive salary bonuses, teachers in Tennessee will subject themselves to much more on-the-job assessment than they have ever experienced, with new teachers receiving especially close scrutiny. They will have to serve a probationary year before receiving a professional qualification, and another three year apprenticeship before receiving tenure.

Teachers who fail their apprenticeship will be forced out of the profession altogether, but those who remain will have the chance to earn higher salaries than in the past - provided they can prove their worth in the classroom. Three levels of "career" teachers will be created, with those who reach the third level earning income supplements of up to \$7,000 a year.

To pass from level to level teachers will be evaluated by special local and state committees. The state has agreed to massive union and teacher representation on the panels, but assessment standards are nevertheless expected to be extremely tough.

Teachers who fail to meet minimum standards during their assessment will face the prospect of dismissal, and for higher career levels the assessing committees will be staffed by teachers from other districts.

While its initiative has great symbolic importance, Tennessee is not the only state to have introduced a form of incentive pay scheme for teachers. Florida, for example, is racing to become the first state in the nation to have a merit pay scheme fully operational. At the end of the year, four out of every hundred teachers in Florida will be nominated for \$3,000 pay bonuses. Those who are selected

will have to have masters' degrees, a perfect attendance record and at least four years' experience.

In Florida, however, the state has shown less patience in winning the approval of the teachers' union. In this case an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). The president of the local AFT chapter claims the proposed timetable is impossible and says there is not enough time before December to ensure that the teachers identified for bonuses really deserve them. In addition, a committee of laymen set up to oversee introduction of the plan has questioned whether a higher degree should be a requirement.

Complaining about what they see as the state's excessive haste, several local teachers' organizations are threatening to boycott the panels of teachers that will be set up to select colleagues who want to be designated master teachers. And the embarrassment of the board of education has been increased by unexpected criticism by an educational consultant hired to assist the scheme.

The consultant, a former associate director of the Federal Government's National Institute of Education, warned recently that the plan as presently conceived would prove extremely expensive yet might not succeed in identifying those teachers who really helped their pupils make progress.

The controversy in Florida bore out fears raised by national spokesmen for the teachers' union when the issue of merit pay became suddenly fashionable a year ago. Mr Albert Shanker, president of the AFT, said merit pay would divide teachers if they suspected the assessment criteria were not completely fair. And Mr Mary Rutledge, president of the NEA, warned state governments against the mistake of regarding merit pay as a panacea that could solve all the problems of the schools.

A similar point was made by Congress in a report published last October. It said raising the basic salary levels of all teachers - currently lagging well behind those of other white collar workers in the United States - was likely to be more useful than schemes rewarding high-fliers alone.

Many of the states currently reviewing the needs of their schools appear to agree with Congress's assessment. In North Carolina a state commission has just recommended a gradual increase in the base pay of all teachers, while in Maine a similar commission is suggesting that starting pay for new teachers be raised from \$10,000 to \$15,000 by the end of the next year. George Wallace, Alabama's Governor, has also called for increased spending on education as part of a "major war against mediocrity".

Sex discrimination setback

The United States Supreme Court dealt a setback to a federal law last week which was designed to prevent sex discrimination in education. It is far more limited than most administrations have assumed, writes Peter David.

The law, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, outlawed any discrimination based on sex in schools or colleges that receive federal financial aid. Although widely regarded as an effective civil rights measure, the precise interpretation of the legislation has been contested bitterly in the courts for several years.

Arguments have concentrated on two questions: the definition of federal financial assistance and the power of the Federal Government to impose its law on schools in breach of the law. After a series of contradictory rulings in lower courts, the Supreme Court has at last provided a definite answer to both questions. At the same time, it has struck down the civil rights leaders and the study of the congressmen who drafted Title IX in the first place.

In the United States has made the definition of federal financial aid an issue that because they raise their own money independently they are not covered by Title IX. Women's rights groups counter that higher education even private colleges receive indirect federal aid in the form of government grants and loans awarded to their students.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court agreed that federal grants to students were indeed a form of financial aid to private colleges and brought these institutions within the scope of the law. But in an accompanying split opinion, the chief justices said the government's power to enforce Title IX in such cases could cover only the programmes receiving federal aid - not the institution as a whole.

The ruling will come as a relief to colleges previously forced by Title IX to ensure that women received the same opportunities as men to take part in college athletics - one of the areas in which discrimination used to be most acute, and which has been most vigorously attacked since 1972. The ruling

means that colleges which ensure that no federal money is used by their programmes can discriminate against women without fear of persecution.

Many college presidents have been quick to deny that they will use the court's ruling as an opportunity to undo any of the progress that has been made in giving women athletes facilities equal to those provided for men. Grove City College, the private Pennsylvania college that fought the case all the way to the Supreme Court, said it did so to clip the wings of central government, not because it is eager to discriminate against women students.

There are indeed sound reasons for colleges to respond cautiously to the greater freedom the ruling has given them. Claiming that the Supreme Court had misunderstood the intentions of Congress, several prominent congressmen promised last week to introduce a new law restoring stronger interpretation of Title IX. They will find that job much easier if colleges appear once again to be discriminating against women.

A case of Bac-peddalling

FRANCE

Mary Follain reports a more cautious ministerial approach to reform

After some highly controversial attempts at reform of comprehensive education, M Alain Savary, French education minister, is now peddling on the question of the Lycée which constitute the country's upper secondary schooling. Lycées prepare pupils for the Baccalauréat, which entitles the holder to a university education and a select few for the highly competitive entrance examination to the elite grandes écoles.

Only half of one age group complete their secondary schooling in a lycée at present and M Savary aims to increase that figure to 80 per cent by 1993 and to make them more democratic. If universities are to increase their intake - as M Savary has already said they must - then the lycées must increase theirs.

The traditional lycée gives a general education, with emphasis on academic subjects, while others provide profes-



M Savary... softly, softly

sional or vocational training. Even though upper secondary education has become more democratic - with the numbers trebling between 1958 and 1982 - the traditional lycées are still the preserve of the more prosperous families.

Despite the highly centralized education system regional variations in the distribution of lycées often mean that a pupil has only one type of secondary education to choose from, if any. The number of pupils in upper secondary education varies from 38 per cent in some areas to 74 per cent in others.

M Savary promises to put the balance right in the 1990s. He wants to see more pupils taking the Baccalauréat and to make it easier to return for those who have left school for a short period.

He also intends to develop both adult education and correspondence courses. At present, the state is responsible for only one in six adults following education courses.

M Savary is basing his recommendations on a report on the lycées by education historian Professor Antoine Prost who says there are no grounds for the present alarm over falling standards.

French pupils do well in maths, science and to a lesser extent in modern languages and they often seem to know more about current affairs such as inflation and the balance of payments than their parents. But, according to Professor Prost, written expression and knowledge of literature have fallen foul of an audio visual society. Lycée pupils, he says, are mostly hard working, pressurized, with an impossibly long day, but most do not know how to work on their own and are not taught to think for themselves.

M Savary intends to monitor the lycées' performance and to counter the argument that mathematics success is the true hallmark of the talented pupil. Paradoxically, the enormous prestige

associated with the mathematical "Bac" has led to a decline in the number of pupils attempting it. M Savary believes maths plays too big a role in French education, and that it is vital for teachers to work together to prepare pupils for the modern world. That is to say, teachers should be aware of the "technical dimension" of the subjects they teach.

The minister wants to improve lycée facilities and to ease a pupil's working day by encouraging schools to provide more free periods. He says the whole school year should be used, instead of ending in early June, which would make a balanced timetable easier to plan. At the same time lycées are desperately short of libraries with one in Paris having room only for 30 pupils at a time.

Professor Prost called for a radical reorganization of the "Bac" but M Savary is retaining it as a national examination while asking schools to suggest a complementary system of continuous assessment.

He says teachers should discuss a pupil's course of study and the type of "Bac" with pupils and parents, so that the decision is not seen to be imposed on youngsters by their teachers.

In line with President Mitterrand's thinking M Savary also wants to give more autonomy to the lycées and to the localities. This is part of an effort to adapt the rigid French education system to a changing world.

"I am convinced that it is the quality of French education which is at issue here," M Savary has said. "And that the absence of any real responsibility on a local level is one of the worst dangers which is threatening a system which includes 12 million pupils and 1 million teachers and administrative staff."

The French economy, he feels, needs more scientists and far more technicians. Technical education in the lycées must be modernized and more account must be taken of economic needs.

Job creation package approved

DENMARK

The Danish Parliament has approved a \$30 million (£35m) job creation scheme that will improve employment and training opportunities for 145,000 under 25-year-olds.

The package was part of the Conservative-Liberal minority coalition's 1984 Finance Bill. It will effectively increase the number of job training places - which stood at 118,000 in 1982 - to 145,000.

The new training opportunities, which are centred largely on the educa-

tional sector, will improve access to technical training, and lead to the creation of more apprenticeships and introductory industrial and business courses.

Additional teacher training courses in the technical fields, notably engineering and data processing as well as in the natural sciences and journalism, will also be set up.

The state education sector will provide 20,000 of the new training places, with private industry, under the aegis of the Ministry of Labour, providing the other 7,000 openings. Companies will receive a £45-a-week subsidy for

each new job they create for an unemployed youth.

A controversial plan to give a further 6,000 young people work by making domestic help tax deductible was rejected by the Government's support parties as being socially retrogressive and was dropped from the youth package.

Unemployment in Denmark is currently running at 10.5 per cent of the workforce (275,000 people). Some 75,000 or 27 per cent of unemployed Danes are in the 16-25 age group.

Christopher Follett

Rich independents may lose grant aid from states

AUSTRALIA

Luis Garcia on the findings of a Federal assistance report

Very wealthy independent schools could lose their entitlement to state grant aid under a plan being considered by the Federal Labour government.

The plan is one of several options suggested to Senator Susan Ryan, the minister for education and youth affairs, by the government's main education advisory body, the Commonwealth Schools Commission, in a report just released.

When Senator Ryan was appointed minister early last year, she asked the commission for a detailed review of the present funding system. Under this system, all independent schools, regardless of their resources or wealth, are entitled to apply for government assistance, which is normally provided in the form of per capita grants.

The system has been widely criticized, especially by the left wing of the Australian Labor Party (ALP) and by the teacher unions, because it has led to richer independent schools becoming richer, and as a result, even more privileged.

The report details a series of options available to the government to make financial assistance to independent schools much more equitable and, the government hopes, less of a controversial issue.

The report will be discussed by interested groups across Australia over the next few weeks and a final draft is expected to go before cabinet by mid-year.

One of the options suggested in the report is to cut all funds to very wealthy private schools, while at the same time increasing the level of assistance to very poor independents. In fact, the report says, some poor schools should be completely funded by the government, as long as they agree to become much more accountable.

Another option is for the government to integrate independent and state schools into the one, centrally controlled system, without necessarily destroying the private schools' religious or philosophical character.

A third possibility is to introduce a national "voucher" system, in which all parents would receive a tax rebate in the form of vouchers which they



Susan Ryan... funding review

could then use to pay for their children's education in the school, private or state, of their choice.

But, according to observers here, the government is likely to reject the more "radical" options, such as the voucher system one, and settle for a middle course, by classifying all independent schools into three categories: self-supporting, maintained and assisted.

Self-supporting schools would be those with high levels of private income. They would not receive any government funding and would not be responsible for the provision of information about their operation. There is no information as to how many schools would fit into this category, but at least 40 of the best-known private institutions would be affected.

Maintained schools would be fully supported and dependent on government funds, and would be subject to a number of government conditions such as restrictions on school enrolments and financial policies.

According to Dr Peter Tannock, chairman of the schools commission, schools in this category could include Aboriginal schools and others in low socio-economic areas.

As expected, the report has led to widespread controversy and criticism from the two opposing sides: the independent schools and the radical teachers unions. The former say that children attending "high performance" independent schools (their term for wealthy) will be discriminated against, while the latter is completely opposed to public funds being used to prop up private institutions.

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Open notes

Sir - In case your readers and, more importantly, the parents and pupils of St Anne's County First School in Stanwell, Surrey, are misled by Mike Durham's statement (TES, February 24) that "confidential records (of the school) were kept in a separate folder, let me hasten to correct it.

No separate, two-tier system of pupil records was in operation at St Anne's. All the information, both formal and informal, recorded on an individual pupil was stored in one folder.

Back in the mid-1970s, when we decided to work towards open records, staff discussed the issues raised in storing written documents which had originated outside the school. There was strong feeling that it was neither ethical nor possible for us to discuss with parents reports made at other schools (where open record systems may not have operated) or made by members of other professions. It was felt equally strongly that these external papers should be stored as a part of

the one working document on a pupil and extracted openly in the presence of the parents, when they came to see their child's notes. Parents were always told which items were extracted, why these notes were not shown to them and how they could be put in touch with the authors.

The open and honest approach to this sensitive area is important and supportive of the thrust in Mike Durham's article, that all professional groups should accord their clients the respect of involvement in their personal records.

Let us hope that, in illustrating the worthwhile experience of some schools in opening their notes to pupils and parents, more teachers and other professional groups will be encouraged to move towards a policy of "openness" on records, which builds trust and respect between people.

ELSA DAVIES
Former Head Teacher
St Anne's County First School
Stanwell
Staines
Middlesex

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LETTERS

Single HE road blocks choice

Sir - Neil Merritt (Platform, February 10) suggests that higher education should be improved by a single clearing house for applications, including all full-time courses in public sector institutions. Initially, this may seem an attractive and rational proposal, but there would be many disadvantages in a single clearing house which, for one, would be loath to accept.

Implicit in his article is the suggestion of an equality of degree courses in the different institutions which does not yet exist and, although a common clearing house may relieve the burden on admissions tutors, it would restrict students in their choice and force them to decisions which, a year prior to entry, they may not be in a good position to make.

At present a student can, and frequently does, make multiple applications. She can, for example, apply to universities for medicine and to polytechnic departments for pharmacy (inadvisable, perhaps, but possible and increasingly common). She can even apply to other polytechnics and colleges of higher education for a completely different degree likely to yield a much lower A level offer and she does not have to justify her different choices to admissions tutors - and why should she?

On a single clearing house form such action may well be impossible because of a restriction on the number of places, and dangerous because of a demonstration of "lack of commitment" to medicine, pharmacy or the completely different subject.

In support of his single system, Neil Merritt argues that students increasingly find it difficult to differentiate between colleges, polytechnics and universities for languages and engineering, suggesting that separate clearing houses create artificial distinctions. My students do not find this a problem; they can apply to all three types of institution and retain a greater flexibility in making their final choice than they would under a single system.

I believe that a tripartite system has many advantages for the students (and where was their voice in Mr Merritt's list of interested bodies?). It is of no real disadvantage to the student to complete a series of application forms and I welcome the opportunity to slant my references according to the type of institution and the course for which my students apply.

Certainly, the time has come for the compilation of a single compendium for all degree and diploma courses but that does not imply a single system for applications. Perhaps it is time for the polytechnics to press ahead with their own clearing house and perhaps some colleges will seek involvement with that scheme. But I am concerned that a single clearing house for all institutions would put the applicants at a disadvantage and it would not, at a stroke, produce equality between courses at different institutions.

JOHN J GUY
The Trinity School
Leamington Spa
Warwickshire

Parent concern

Sir - With reference to Mary Watson's letter (TES, February 24), members of the Hillfoot Hey Parents' Association share the concern of their counterparts at Quarry Bank about the shortcomings of the plan for the reorganization of Liverpool county secondary schools.

However, it must be emphasized that arguments in favour of alternatives based essentially on economies of scale are neither universally acceptable nor indeed educationally proven.

Further, it is a fact that many parents in Liverpool do opt firmly for single-sex education, basing their choice on their knowledge of the performance of particular schools and on precedents established in the comprehensive reorganizations of 1967 and 1973.

LYNN HILL
26 Stuart Avenue
Hunts Cross
Liverpool L25

Viking dig

Sir - Readers of Dudley Wilson's article previewing the new Jorvik Viking Centre in York (February 24) may like to know that in April, to coincide with the opening of the centre, we shall be publishing Richard Hall's account of the excavations at York under the title *The Viking Dig*. Mr Hall is deputy director of the York Archaeological Trust and he directed the Viking dig at Coppergate throughout the excavations.

EUAN CAMERON
The Bodley Head
9 Bow Street
Covent Garden
London WC2

Low rates

Sir - The article "Propaganda charge over passes" (TES, January 27) drew my attention. I am afraid the Joint Matriculation Board's attempts to reassure us have had the opposite effect in my case.

I had never expected the pass rate in further maths A level to be the same as that in home economics - usually it is the most able who sit further maths, and so more are likely to pass.

What I had expected was that in a particular subject the pass rate would be similar from year to year. I have in the past encouraged my pupils by suggesting that if their paper seems particularly hard compared with those from previous years, then everyone else is finding it hard and the "pass mark" will be lowered, so that roughly the same proportion pass as usual.

I have just set last year's A level physics paper as a "mock" examination, and after marking it I consider it to be harder than any set since 1979. The marks on Paper 4 are around 10 per cent lower than I would have expected. Does this mean that the grades awarded last year were lower than usual and the pass rate lower?

No wonder one of my ablest candidates, whom I estimated as a B grade was awarded an E grade.

F. ROSSINGTON
Head of Physics
Merchant Taylors' School for Girls
Crabby
Liverpool

Exam allergy

Sir - I read of Hereford and Worcester's cost-cutting education policy with some concern. Do Dr David Maffett and his colleagues realize the misery they will bring to the hundreds of pupils and staff in their authority who suffer from hay-fever by their policy of encouraging school grounds to run wild? I doubt it very much, and would point out that the effects of this malady will reduce the performance of those staff affected and perhaps have fatal consequences on those pupils affected by the taking of public examinations in close proximity to "unnecessarily large amounts of pollen."

MIRYB
14 Carlbrook Close
Bristol



Hidden complexities in library cataloguing.

Library lists

Sir - In the TES February 3 issue, which included a review of Colin Ray's book *Library Services to Children*, I was somewhat saddened to see an article on the creation of a card system for cataloguing the school resources library which, though admirable in concept, can surely not be as simple and low-cost to maintain.

For example, in co-operation with other teaching staff to create a "dictionary" of cataloguing and maintain it afterwards would seem to be an expensive procedure. I am not convinced that it is appropriate or necessary for the pupil to know the price of the material catalogued or for which "levelage" group it is intended.

Not so simple

Sir - I have just read Gerry Wilson's "Do-it-Yourself" article on library resources. In an otherwise helpful account of how the untrained school librarian might set up a card system for cataloguing audio-visual (as well as book) materials, Mr Wilson makes light of the process of "producing the catalogue."

I entirely agree with him that the Dictionary Catalogue is "simple to use" and that this is what gives it the edge over both the classified catalogue and the various optical cataloguing systems that once looked so promising. I would argue for the dictionary catalogue even if "complex information technology" were available. But I do not agree that what Mr Wilson calls "a basic subject index" is

scription of the process gives the lie to the claim.

It took me five years to "involve the teaching staff" to make the "many detailed decisions" about headings and sub-headings, main-set and sub-set and above all, as Mr Wilson says, to ensure that the system was "consistent throughout." My objective was to produce a list of headings that any school librarian might use; and it was realized in the *List of Subject Headings for School and Other Libraries*, published in 1981 by the School Library Association.

I do not write this letter by way of self-advertisement; I write it to self-hard-pressed colleagues from having to re-do five years' work.

COLIN SWATRIDGE
Reigate College
Reigate
Surrey

The truth about history

Sir - The questions raised by Sir Keith Joseph's speech to the Historical Association and your own leader comment (February 17) are of great importance for history teaching and much else. It is a pity that neither was more explicit about the value of history in developing understanding of human relationships. Without claiming too much for it, history's study of situations, events, and human response ought to enhance understanding of all human interactions whether between nations or within marriages. The skills of analysis which history develops should have practical and moral application in human encounters large and small.

Orwellian view

Sir - I was so relieved to read that Sir Keith Joseph has acknowledged "Hitler's unique contribution" to the curriculum. My relief, however, was diminished as his reported address to the Historical Association unfolded.

The view of the whole British nation, evidence informed with "shaped private attitudes and public policies", creating "shared values and distinctive British features", is one worthy of the Secretary of State's Orwellian approach to the twenty-first century. What concerns me is the fate of the subject and the prospects for the immediate generation of young people. There is no room for history in Sir Keith's Certificate of Pre-Vocational Education package; indeed, his chosen administrators have no concern with these "uninformed" bodies, the GCE and CSE boards which have on offer wide and world perspectives in CSE and CEE O and A level examinations, and which have been endeavouring over the last decade to revise and reform the whole approach to the 16-plus, 17-plus and

Otherwise, most of what Sir Keith declares valuable in knowledge of history may be lost in the mind that studies history in the past.

On the basis of evidence we may only be able to say (of, for example, some seventeenth century English occurrence) "Hill says this while Trevor-Roper says that". In other words, the study of history becomes a study of historians.

Your leading article sees "a difference in fundamental objectives between those who see history as a principal ingredient in the formation of a citizen's concept of his country, past and present, and those who see it as a whistle-on which to sharpen critical

18-plus examinations. Because Sir Keith has not pronounced his readiness to give his blessing to the common examination system at 16-plus. History, in company with other main curriculum subjects, has mobilized groups all over the country. The schemes are exciting, containing national/international/technological/multicultural and evidence-based approaches. But Sir Keith is not able to accept either the criteria or the concepts of the experts.

Because the resource implication of history throughout the curriculum is immense. John Slater, HMI, refers to the "revolutionary impact" of the Schools Council History 13-16 Project together with the new HMI 5 to 16 curriculum initiative with its 60 key historical terms. Both developments require resourcing in terms of materials and in-service training.

Because Sir Keith has abdicated power and resources to the Manpower Services Commission and supports a Technical and Vocational Education Initiative take-over from 14 to 19 - thus endeavouring to secure an end to 11 to

the past, personal, national or international, asks "What happened?" and "Why did he do that?"

On the basis of evidence we may only be able to say (of, for example, some seventeenth century English occurrence) "Hill says this while Trevor-Roper says that". In other words, the study of history becomes a study of historians.

Your leading article sees "a difference in fundamental objectives between those who see history as a principal ingredient in the formation of a citizen's concept of his country, past and present, and those who see it as a whistle-on which to sharpen critical

19 comprehensive education. By this means he seeks to ensure that his vision of a graded technocracy will materialize. He seems in his address to reduce the study of history in schools to the level of persuading the nation's children that, for example, acts of the establishment exploiting slavery are reconcilable with high principles and nobility of mind, and that liberty is of "much less significant value than order to the same noble minds". Shades of Cheltenham!

The study of history truly has an unique contribution to make to the school curriculum. But, here in this country over the past 20 years historians and history teachers at all levels and of all shades of opinion have been evolving new and positive approaches to enable all children to enjoy the richness of their own and the world's heritage of man's achievement. In the words of an unequivocal nationalist - "Give us the tools", Sir Keith, "and we will finish the job."

JUNE FISHER
Former Chair, Schools Council History Committee
19 Thornsett Road London SE20

facilities and powers of reasoning. Presumably it could do both, and the other good things which we want it to deliver, but only if it actually approaches truth independent of the purposes which ideologies might have for it. History, like science or any other discipline, demands a metaphysical commitment to the existence of truth irrespective of present human ability to perceive it.

RICHARD WILKINS
General Secretary
Association of Christian Teachers
27 Spring Gardens, Garston, Watford, Herts

Ars gratia artis

Sir - Following upon Sir Keith Joseph's rationale for the value of history in the curriculum on the grounds of its "unique" contribution, development of "understanding of human activity" past and present, potential to "enrich the whole of one's adult life", source of "abiding pleasure and intellectual satisfaction", development of "skills of analysis and criticism" and an awareness of how "ideas and values" have been formed, may we look forward to his equally spirited support for the arts in education on the same grounds?

SHEILA PAINE
Lecturer in Art Education
Department of Art & Design
University of London
Institute of Education

Letters for publication should be kept as brief as possible and typed on one side of the paper only. The Editor reserves the right to cut or amend them.



From Alles klar workbook

Deutsch duo

Sir - Brian Hill takes the BBC and IBA School Television departments to task for providing two series on German language during the same school year (TES, February 24). This over-generosity is not as daft as it seems. The BBC series *Unter Uns* is not new material, but a re-editing of film originally shown in the series *Alles klar* first transmitted in 1982. *Alles klar* was language function based; film sequences were presented according to what people said in a variety of situations. *Unter Uns* takes the same material but allows each situation to develop fully. Teachers will find this a useful postscript to a series they already value and was for the BBC a very low cost way of being useful. Thames TV's *Partners* is a major new series receiving its first transmission this year. Both series are to be transmitted on Tuesday mornings but there is a whole clear hour between the end of one and the beginning of another. It's our belief that secondary schools will be able to record, store and use both series when it suits them. The decision to transmit in this way was a conscious one, taken at one of the regular meetings of BBC and IBA education departments.

RONALD SMEDLEY
Acting Head of School Broadcasting
BBC Television



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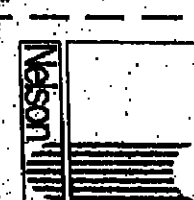
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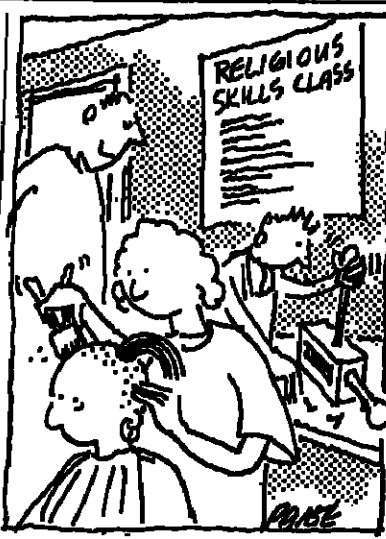
Moral skills

FRANK PALMER

May I heartily congratulate Geraint Lloyd-Evans on his two recent contributions to the TES - one on the dogma of "measurability" (Letters January 13) and the recent attack on the improper extension of the term "skill" ("Manners maketh skills", Talkback February 17).

As a philosophy graduate, I find it utterly amazing that arguments which have become almost commonplace in philosophical psychology should be almost totally ignored by a new crop of pseudo-behaviourists freshly risen from the grave. As a philosopher, as a parent and as a deputy head of English employed in a comprehensive school, I am increasingly frustrated by, and alarmed at, the dogmatism in education that all too easily passes for intellectual rigour and, indeed, threatens to usurp it.

The education of children today is lodged precariously between two extremes; the Scylla of a mere behavioural itinerary of "knacks" and the Charybdis of moral/political indoctrination. Mr Lloyd-Evans is clearly on the side of the angels as far as mainstream philosophy is concerned in his exposure of the quite absurd reductionism that enables complex human capacities as fundamental as "communication" and "comprehension" to be poured into the grotesque mould of "skills". Programmes founded on such a bald reductionist stance are doomed to failure. Even if they succeeded on their own terms, they would be prescriptions for behavioural imitations (and, therefore, travesties) of the real McCoy. Skills-based methods in English or in social education (to name



but two areas) neither foster nor help to develop the capacities, motivations and range of feelings that give wholeness to the individual and his proper place in the world. At best they turn pupils off. At worst they succeed - and produce automata.

Anyone who has undertaken a serious study of moral philosophy could not fail to bristle at, or be horrified by, the next ghostly machine on the horizon - courses in moral skills! It is at this grim point that the Scylla and the Charybdis converge. Mr Lloyd-Evans is quite right to suppose that the "how" is becoming the "what" as an educational aim. But it is also clear even from a casual glance at some of our schools that some departments who otherwise eschew the "skills mania" still plump for another dubious kind of "what", they use the thin skins of subject names to disguise social-engineering bandwagons.

It has now become old-fashioned to pledge one's allegiance to education as an end in itself and to the aim of developing the intellectual potential of pupils in order that they may become thinking men and women who can

evaluate and analyse moral/social issues for themselves. Education, alas, has to be for some other end. In my view this is corrupt. The slogan "education for peace" is, *qua* educational aim, in the same ball-game as "education for military engagement". Educational aims have become capricious creatures of fashion and their complexion is inevitably behaviouralist.

The behavioural model of "man" for the 1980s is that of a be-bagged, jogging anti-smoker who manifests a penchant for wholesome bread and wholesome campaigns about saving whales. "Normalizing" relations between different ethnic groups and exclusive single-sex membership to non-sexist protest groups and, finally, rising out a Clark Kentian humility to tower as a super-hero who will "civilize" the third world.

Whether we reduce all academic and cultural pursuits to mere "skills" or whether we covertly (or, in some cases, explicitly) use subject areas to indoctrinate pupils with fixed social attitudes we will neither produce thinking citizens nor feeling and humane persons. But instead we will breed a race of sloganizing machines who lack the capacities to appreciate whatever importance the content of such slogans dimly represent. A lifetime ago Bertrand Russell indicated his belief that schools do much to destroy the enthusiasms and spirit of inquiry natural to all children. I wonder what he would make of this now?

It is supremely paradoxical that in this new age of ostensible moral purity the very curriculum is being Mastered and Johnsonned towards greasy techniques. Happily, so far it has, failed to butter up educationists of Mr Lloyd-Evans' calibre. Or could it just be that he is one of the few who are brave enough to swim against a fashionable tide?

Frank Palmer is deputy head of English at Barnhill School, Hayes, Middlesex.

13th time lucky

SID HERBERT

I was interested to read "Study of form" by Roger Free (TES February 17). My recent experience has left me with the impression that the appointment of primary heads in this country is akin to a lottery and nothing to do with educational prowess or leadership qualities. Of course not everybody can get an interview but once there the baker, the butcher, the brewer, and the local secretary of the Townswomen's Guild, or whoever else the governors of the school may be.

I had thirteen interviews before I eventually "cracked" it and I was asked some diabolical questions. In one interview I had talked about the importance of language in mathematics in reply to one question. Then a middle-aged lady said how interested she was to learn that I combined the teaching of French with mathematics. In Scotland I had answered one question by stressing how important I thought it was to involve parents in their children's education. The next questioner was flummoxed for he only had one question which was to ask whether I thought it to be important to involve parents. He sat for a few seconds desperately trying to think of another question but he couldn't manage it and so he asked his question anyway.

Another time I thought the interview was going well until a brusque man of about 80 asked, "What will you do when it snows?" I thought I had probably misheard and so I asked him to repeat the question. "What will you do when it snows, lad?" he repeated in a louder voice with the slight inflection indicating that he thought he was talking to a numskull.

I thought quickly. Was he asking me whether I would clear the playground with a shovel? Was he wondering whether I would have a snowball fight with the kids? Then it clicked. As I lived 16 miles away he was concerned about me getting to school.

"I'll set off a bit earlier to get here. It's good main road and there should rarely be any difficulty."

"Ah, but what about the fog, lad?" We got bad fog round here."

I answered in the same vein as I had to the previous question and I could see he was getting exasperated.

"Are you prepared to move house, lad?" he blurted out.

I answered no and from then on the interview went dead. I was only thankful that it wasn't snowing or foggy as I drove home.

The length and format of the appointment process varies tremendously. In one authority the first day of interviews is on a round robin basis with each candidate going for a number of different interviews on different subjects: management, language, the school and the community.

This is a very tiring method especially as a lunch was taken with the interviewees. At the end of the first day the lucky ones were asked to attend for a second day. I was not chosen and I put this down to the fact that I ate my sweet with a spoon in my left hand, or possibly I wasn't very good at answering the questions.

Another authority has a similar method but also includes a group interview. The candidates sit with an education officer and discuss a topical subject in education. But at the same time other interviews are being conducted and candidates are called out at this situation or put back into it so that at any one time only four, or the six candidates are in the group interview. When returning to the group the candidate is not aware of what has been said before and may find it difficult to join in.

By far the most common method is the short, sharp 20 to 40 minutes grilling in front of a panel made up of local dignitaries and county councillors with the odd educationalist or two thrown in.



Not all authorities have candidates sitting around waiting time when they could be back at school working. One Scottish authority has an appointment time system and the local candidates just came for interview and then went back to school. My appointment was at 11.25 and at this time I was given a question by the clerk to the panel and was informed that I had to talk for five minutes on this question in 20 minutes' time. The clerk said that every candidate had the same question and the same time to prepare and so the system was eminently fair.

I went in and did my five minutes and was asked a few more questions and was out again in 20 minutes. I asked the clerk how long it would be before a decision was made and he said that they had one more interview to do and then they would decide. It wouldn't be long because the panel had to have lunch and appoint another head in the afternoon.

I went to the station to find out the times of the trains and was back in 40 minutes. The clerk was right; they hadn't taken long and I was told that I had finished second - some consolation I suppose.

And have I learnt anything from my experiences? Can I give any good advice? Well, not really as I was a failure 12 times - just don't take the process too seriously and don't get downhearted and don't go too deeply into what you are doing wrong. Your turn will probably come soon.

In the debriefing after one interview I was told by the education officer that I had had a good interview and that I came over as a strong personality. It had been tough and go whether I had got the job or not. The very next day I had another debriefing in another authority and was told that I had had a good interview but that I had come over as too strong a personality for that village school. Sometimes you just can't win!

Sid Herbert was recently appointed head of Gwernick JMI School, Welwyn Garden City.

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FEATURES

Inspectors' report

David Hall gives HM Inspectorate a taste of its own medicine

As my school came under the spotlight of the inspectorate recently, the publication of their report prompts me to suggest that ideally there should be a two way process involved. Surely the public has the right to be assured that not only the teachers but the HMs also represent good value for money.

Introduction
The report itself is contained in 44 pages of good quality A4 unlined white paper. The frontpiece consists of a two tone layout, the heavy black print of the main headings contrasting rather unpleasantly with the lighter off-centre name of the school. There was a lack of standardization here which suggested that this part of the exercise had not been fully coordinated. More meetings at departmental level would have avoided this particular fault.

Accommodation
The HMs were allowed the use of a large craft room during their visit. This room was well treated; ashtrays were used properly and there was no graffiti.

The Team
The team consisted of twenty HMs drawn from a wide background. Educational qualifications were of a high standard although their average height of 5' 9" contrasted with the national average of 5' 10", a discrepancy so small that it can be safely ignored.

Standards of behaviour were felt to be good. Out of a total of 248 recorded classroom visits, 16.4 per cent were preceded by a knock and of the remaining 3.6 per cent, 0.08 per cent were preceded by a scuffling noise which can, for the purposes of this report be taken as a suitable equivalent. Only in 1.8 per cent of visits was a door flung open without any warning. Contact time for each inspector during the period of the inspection ranged from two to five days compared with a national average of two hundred days a year for teaching staff. The HMs obviously followed a well planned and carefully implemented room system of staff interview. This provided most teachers with the most valuable experience of working through the day, inclusive of breaks, free period, lunch hours and a considerable portion of time after the end of the normal school day.

Departmental Reports
This was the most disappointing area of the report. A clear lack of co-ordination and the absence of an "overall" strategy were all too evident. To take one example: some subjects were disposed of in half a page of closely argued material while other disciplines were allocated two pages of comment and some teachers were left with a feeling of discrimination. There is a need here to discuss methods of assessment in much greater depth. There was also much repetition. Too many of the inspectors were content to use terminology and jargon that was frankly dated. Surely education is one area of life that pre-empted all others in the need to keep informed of current terminology which has been known to change by the week. Three or four examples will make the point. Far too often inspectors talked about "lack of pace", and the need for "commitment". Inevitably there was a constant stressing of the need to cater for "the disadvantaged"; it was not always clear if this was a reference to the pupils or the staff.

The inspectors might well consider the inclusion of visual material in this section of the report. The layout would benefit from the use of photographic coverage of teaching areas with lessons in progress. One has in mind a practical lesson for instance being given in a boys' changing room. Routemaster kits for staff moving between lessons on a three site comprehensive school could be provided with suggested routes showing the shortest distances between two points. Perhaps the local police force could be asked to provide mug shots of some of the school's more prominent pupils.

Conclusion
Provided the above criteria are borne in mind there seems no reason to doubt that the quality of reports will continue to improve. The inspectorate is well placed to capitalize on its existing strengths and backed by the energetic and enthusiastic support of the 400,000 teachers in the maintained sector, it should be able to build on the traditions it has already established.

David Hall is head of history in a Liverpool comprehensive school.

The secret diary of Christine Longbottom, teacher, aged 33 and one week

January 4: Beginning of term. Feeling of well-being, health and happiness, acquired over holiday, has suddenly evaporated. New kid in my year-group; Pandemonium. Ridiculous name, though at least it doesn't brand her as a villain, like Shane or Tracey. Made her fill in the usual pointless record card - she gave her ambition as, "To ride with the Quorn". Yeuch! Sit her next to that insufferable Mole kid. Came home depressed and shouted at Clive.

January 6: Altercation with Brett Patterson during registration, over what he calls "Children's Rights". The head sent for me and said not to be "hard" on him; as he comes from a broken home. Said it was probably him who broke it and, besides, it made no difference if he came from a home in the ground, which he probably did. Head said that wasn't a very caring attitude; replied that I couldn't care less. Head not impressed. New CSE class even more horrendous than last year's: full of Glens, Deans, Julies and Debbie's. Will probably be reduced to showing videos to keep them quiet.

January 11: Skived off and went round market. Saw at least five skiving kids. Coughed loudly and tried to look ill.

January 12: Dale Adams has reported me for skiving. Told the head I'd gone for prescription but since he knows I live out of town, I wasn't believed. He glared at me; I glared back. Stalemate.

January 14: Staff Meeting re "The Difficult Child" with head of drama acting foreman: teenage child, one Mickey Moon, and vice-principal shouting as How to Cope. Hopeless. VJ was totally unable to control the situation and finally suspended Mickey at 6 pm.

January 18: Car wouldn't start and I had to rely on a lift to school from Creepy Courts; the second vice-principal, "vice" being the operative word. He is a notorious lecher and looks like a child molester. He actually had the cheek to ask me out for a drink, even though the whole staffroom knows he is having an affair with Sue Steyne, who has just been given a v. dubious Scale 3 for being in charge of Girls' Cloakrooms. I politely but firmly declined his offer - but must admit, it did make me wonder how a single, unattached, 33-year-old schoolteacher fits in all the marking and a social life? Do offers only come from creeps like Counts?

January 19: Memo from head this morning; we are not, under any circumstances, to suspend kids.

January 20: Another memo from head re fifth-form yobbos, euphemistically referred to as "disenchanted students". He has decided on a

Bitter rain

DAVID WELLS

The persistent steady rain-of, for the most part, ignorant criticism aimed at teachers, has been a constant feature of the last few years. It is a sad state of affairs, and one which is difficult to ignore. It is a sad state of affairs, and one which is difficult to ignore. It is a sad state of affairs, and one which is difficult to ignore.

On Tuesday, February 7, 1984, The Standard in London published a column by Brian Walden, an ex-MP and respected interviewer on television, under the 48 point headline, "Time to get strict with teachers". As journalism, it was feeble, and as an analysis of any part of the problems of the educational system, incompetent. He started by asserting that "Our secondary education system is what the teachers want it to be", and accused teachers of resenting the slightest criticism of their methods.

He took half the article to get to his main point: "In my opinion, modern teaching practice places too much emphasis upon social skills and the development of a well-adjusted personality. Children go to school for the primary purpose of attaining academic excellence, or a vocational skill that will get them a job."

He went on to argue for the virtues of the "now despised stern old methods", which were used when he was a pupil, by the transparently sophistical trick of claiming that he was "a slum kid without a single redeeming virtue" who was "coached with such care and compassion" that he got an Oxford scholarship, carefully omitting to explain why, in that case, every pupil in his class did not also get an Oxford scholarship.

He continued by asserting that if teachers can make pupils "happy, socially responsible, outgoing, compassionate, that is quite splendid and an added bonus. But that is exactly what it is - a bonus. The job of the teacher is to teach, and teach well, a subject." And he concluded by claiming that that is what the modern British employer wants.

Forgive my so-brief précis, but I assure you, I have omitted nothing to Brian Walden's credit, and much to his discredit.

How did London's teachers, very many of whom must be among The Standard's circulation of just over half a million, respond to this attack?

I rang The Standard's letters department to find out. A very helpful voice informed me that they had received just three letters in response to Walden. One of them was too long for publication. The other two were both published. One was pro-Walden from a

local councillor, the other was anti-Walden from one of the joint-headmasters of Dartington Hall School, which happens to be in Devon.

Not a single London teacher, not one London headteacher, not one lecturer in any of London's teacher training establishments, no one, had thought it worth while to put pen to paper in their own defence.

Why? Is it because teachers seriously feel that their own modest contributions will never be published, and it really isn't worth putting pen to paper, and someone else will write a much better letter than they will, or no one takes any notice of letters to the editor anyway?

I hope that readers of The TES will reconsider their own responsibility for answering their media critics. To an Editor, mere quantity of letters is impressive, irrespective of their quality. Twenty critical letters of which two are just the right length, and need no editing, are far more impressive than six letters alone with these ideal qualities, because every letter represents a reader.

A letter does not have to be long. A short letter, picking up only one point, still registers that fact that you, a reader, felt strongly enough to put pen to paper, find an envelope, stamp it and post it.

Editors are affected by reader response. Editors never know their readership as well as they would like. They can never be certain how many other readers share the feelings of the letter writers. No matter what the editor's own views a strong negative reader reaction will not be ignored. Either the subject will be opened up for genuine debate (excellent!) or the next time it is aired it will be better written or argued about.

That could mean the chop for an irregular or feeble contributor. Brian Walden will not be silenced so easily, but he might be forced to think harder before opening his mouth again; and who knows, thinking harder he might follow Sir Keith Joseph's example and think a little better.

And that is what we all desire, is it not? Intelligent, thoughtful, informed debate. But we shall not reach, or even approach, that state as long as feeble critics are allowed to get away with murder by a thousand cuts.

The remedy lies in our hands. What are you going to do about it?

David Wells is a teacher and head of a secondary school in London.

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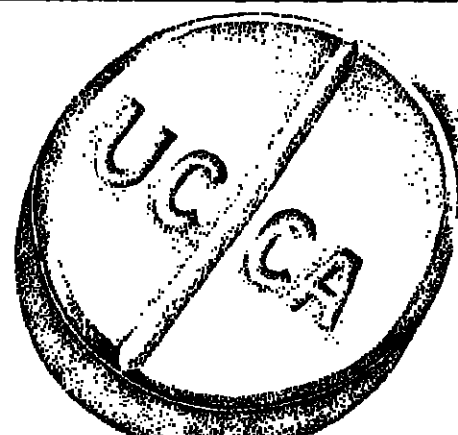
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FEATURES

THE BITTER PILL

As medical schools face reductions in their intakes and competition for places heats up, a new approach to applications is urged, Joanna Lyall reports



A study of medical school applications to be published soon proposes that applicants should no longer be asked to list schools in order of preference on the UCCA form as this can lessen some candidates' chances of being considered.

The study, based on a survey of 1,350 applications to St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, in 1980, also suggests that candidates should give one place on the form to a course other than medicine in case they fall in what is an increasingly stiff competition.

Last year there were 10,729 applications for 3,955 places at UK medical schools. The average A level grades of students entering medicine were ABB. Only would-be vets face tougher competition.

Sixth-formers' chances of becoming doctors were recently made even worse by a Government committee on medical manpower. It recommended cuts in medical school intakes of at least 5 per cent to avoid an estimated surplus of 30,000 doctors by the end of the century.

In such a buyers' market there is a good deal of discussion about selection methods and which candidates, and what aptitudes, are the "best buy" for medicine. "Far more applicants could cope academically with the course in medicine than can be accepted," says Professor Peter Richards, dean of St Mary's, who published a guide for prospective medical students last year.

Good exam results, on their own, are not enough. One applicant to St Mary's with three A grades and one B at A level came from an area of high unemployment and was asked what he thought the greatest health problem might be in his home town. He did not know, did not seem interested, and was not offered a place. "He just didn't have the right feel for medicine," says Professor Richards.

Most of the London schools, and the newer universities like Leicester and Nottingham, place strong emphasis on interviews and deliberately see many more applicants than they have places for. "We think it's important for people to feel they've had a hearing," says Professor Richards. Last year St Mary's received 2,950 applications. All were personally scrutinized by the dean who then invited 416 candidates for interview. One hundred were finally accepted.

A and B grades at O level almost guarantee an interview but other considerations are taken into account. "If we see someone's been to gritty schools, or suffered a lot of disruption in schooling we'll make an exception," says Professor Richards. And St Mary's always takes one or two risks each year - candidates without an outstanding track record who seem to have promise.

At St Mary's, though achievement in, physical and intellectual potential, even more important, are the qualities of character. Extra-curricular activities, community service and personal initiative are thought to provide some clues to such potential. Sporting, musical and dramatic interests are signposts for selection looking for people who will contribute to the life of the school during the long training. Records reports are also generally regarded as useful indicators of potential.

Interviewing practice at universities varies considerably. Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh see only unusual candidates, such as mature students, while Nottingham never makes an offer without seeing an applicant. Aberdeen, which only interviews mature, graduate and borderline cases, believes that pupils' ability to communicate is adequately assessed in their reports.

At least half the candidates usually go into general practice. But schools like Nottingham and Southampton, which have a GP on the interviewing panels, as well as academics and hospital doctors, are exceptional.

Medical schools vary in their attitude towards

candidates' list of preference. The results of the St Mary's study, which followed up the fate of every applicant who put St Mary's on the UCCA form, suggest that candidates who are not offered a place by their top choices lose out because schools placed lower down the list are reluctant to consider them. The study also shows that candidates who send in their UCCA form early do stand a better chance than those who apply in November and December.

So under the present system all candidates would benefit by sending in their forms as early as possible. And the weaker candidate is well advised to find out where competition is the least stiff and put those medical schools at the top of the list.

Most medical schools like to see candidates' choices in order of preference but vary in their attitudes towards positioning. Oxford, for instance, does not mind about its position on UCCA forms as long as it is not placed below Cambridge. "But in practice candidates including Oxford usually put us first". Glasgow does not consider applicants who put it third or lower on the list of preferences but will consider candidates who bracket all their choices as being equally acceptable. Nottingham considers applicants who place it low down on the form but in practice those who place it lower than second are "rarely" accepted.

Minimum A level grades required also vary, with many schools asking for three Bs while some of the London schools make offers of three Cs (although the average grades achieved are higher). Some schools, like Edinburgh, will not consider reapplicants, while others, including several of the London schools, will consider second applications in special circumstances like bereavement but usually require higher grades. Universities also differ in their attitudes to taking a year off between school and university.

All this adds up to something of a maze and has prompted some of those involved in medical education to call for a code of practice, to be updated annually, in which all schools would describe their minimum requirements, selection procedures and amount of attention paid to the order of preference on the UCCA form.

Such a code, argues Richard Wakeford, senior research associate at Cambridge University School of Medicine, would be a vast improvement on the current situation in which "details of the selection procedures are rarely made entirely clear and there is no simple way to ascertain the particular mechanism used by any individual school."

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, Mr Wakeford suggests that schools should also be asked what proportion of candidates are interviewed, and for how long, and whether any kind of "quality" system operated for mature students, applicants from medical families or children of the school's graduates.

But in the absence of such a code applicants must rely on their own research. There are several guides (see below) but these cannot take the place of a direct approach to individual schools, followed by a visit where possible. And the approach should be personal. Selection is not impressed by parents writing in for information about what is accepted as one of the most gruelling university courses. And they do not want to the candidates who arrive for interview without having read the prospectus, saying "my headmaster said I should come here."

Entrance Requirements for Medical School (1975) from the Secondary Heads Association, 29 Grafton Square, London, WC1.
Learning Medicine, by Professor Peter Richards, 14 from BMA Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1.
A Doctor on Call, by John Thurman, 13 from BMA Publications, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London, WC1.

TWO'S COMPANY

Ann Fitzgerald finds small rural schools can survive if they pool their resources

Falling pupil numbers leading to the closure of small rural schools represent yet another blow to community life already smitten in many villages by the car and the supermarket.

A Government circular in 1981 setting out the financial and educational benefits of amalgamating pupils in larger schools has accelerated this process. But an experiment begun that same year in the picturesque Cotswold town of Chipping Camden might offer an alternative for some country areas.

It involves two Church-aided primaries, St James in Chipping Camden (101 on roll) and Ebrington Village school (26 on roll), three miles north of Chipping Camden. On the retirement of the headmaster of St James in December, 1980, Ian Jones, already headmaster of Ebrington school, was appointed joint head of what later came to be known as The Federated Primary Schools of Ebrington and St James.

Federation has proved a thriving success with numbers in both schools steadily climbing. Last year Ebrington had 34 on roll and St James 116, 45 per cent above the local authority's estimates, and this has risen to 55 per cent over the last 12 months. This growth has been accelerated by the 1980 Education Act which allows parents to choose a school beyond the boundary of their L.E.A. area, a freedom which is bringing a steady stream of children from adjoining counties as well as other districts in Gloucestershire. Eight out of a class of 14 at Ebrington come from Warwickshire.

But this parental affirmation of the federation has not been won easily, as Ian Jones admits. "In fact," he says, "if I'd known three years ago how hard it would be to get the idea established I'm not sure I would have taken it on."

Earlier experiments in federating schools, in Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire, were not encouraging. In Yorkshire, the plan did not get beyond the paper stage and in Cambridgeshire the federation was unable to prevent its smaller schools from closing. In administering two schools, Ian Jones's policy has been to retain a great deal of autonomy and individuality for each, even though it has made his life hectic.

It has meant two of everything; two separate buildings to maintain, two P.T.A.s to foster and to attend, two bonfire nights, two carol services, two summer fetes. The ordinary weekday routine requires certain lunchtimes to be spent in each school, different assemblies on different days and most important of all, regular accessibility to parents, each in their own school building, when they need to see him.

But Ian Jones is certain that this has enabled the schools to serve their own communities better and for the federation to be accepted by parents, and other local people. "Each community is

different, each has its own concerns and priorities", he explains, "and each is very protective of its own school and wants its identity to be preserved."

"At first we had to tread warily, had to size up each new idea from all angles trying to anticipate the unfavourable reactions it would cause in different quarters and I don't think I would have appreciated the role and needs of a small village school if I hadn't spent those two years at Ebrington as the village schoolmaster."

All staff agree that there is much less tension now. Parents have come to trust the federation and appreciate the advantages it can give their children.

The St James school hall is valuable for both schools and on Monday afternoons Peter Hockley, one of the two class teachers at Ebrington, whose special interest is PE, comes down to St James to take the juniors for gym while the junior teacher goes to Ebrington to take his class. On Wednesday afternoons both schools combine for a sports afternoon when the children can play in their appropriate age groups. On Thursday afternoons Kate Thorpe goes to Ebrington to take a recorder group for children from both schools and junior swimming sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays can be organized in age groups, with those at the non-swimming session getting extra small-group tuition.

This integration has been achieved by a very tightly structured curriculum. For reading and maths Ian Jones and his staff have devised meticulous evaluation charts pinpointing the different skills, and the stages, at which each is taught, tested, and later revised. All other academic subjects are approached through topics which teachers teach in their own way within agreed guidelines. Staff room copies of lesson plans and flow charts show the aspects of science, history and environmental work they are covering.

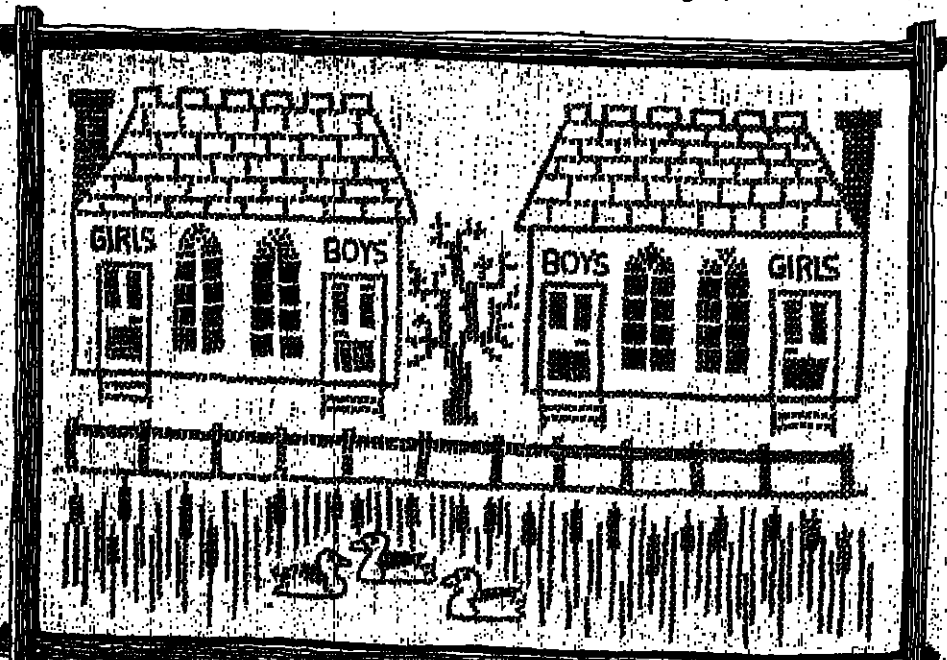
Topic work comes to a glorious, integrated flowering in the schools' joint study visits. For infants and younger juniors this will be one day/one night visits to a field study centre progressing to a complete fortnight's stay for the top juniors where they study an area and the way of life of the people. In 1981 and 1982 a study exchange was arranged with a school in Viborg, Denmark and last year they went to the village of Granitis in Northern Macedonia.

Ian Jones explains "we are trying to give our children the best of both worlds; for the very young the security of a small school and familiar faces, then gradually widening their horizons as their confidence increases. In this, the federation allows us to overcome the disadvantages of two small schools; small peer groups, a minute staff, and very limited facilities."

Could the federation's success be transplanted to save other small schools? The headmaster is cautious. "I don't think it's an instant remedy. I believe in principle it's a sound idea but each system would have to be carefully tailored to the individual schools, and communities concerned and it can't be done without an absolutely tremendous effort."

The chief education officer, Mr Keith Anderson, echoes this. "I'm delighted that this particular federation has been a great success and it's entirely due to the determination and enthusiasm of the people involved. We've learnt a lot about the value of sharing resources but I would still proceed with great caution before trying it elsewhere."

A year in the life of Ebrington Village School can be seen in three programmes on BBC1 on March 5, 12, 19 (Midlands Region) and on March 23, 30 and April 6 (SW Region).



BLIND MAN'S BUFF

Some schools don't play fair in the school selection game, Peter Holman complains

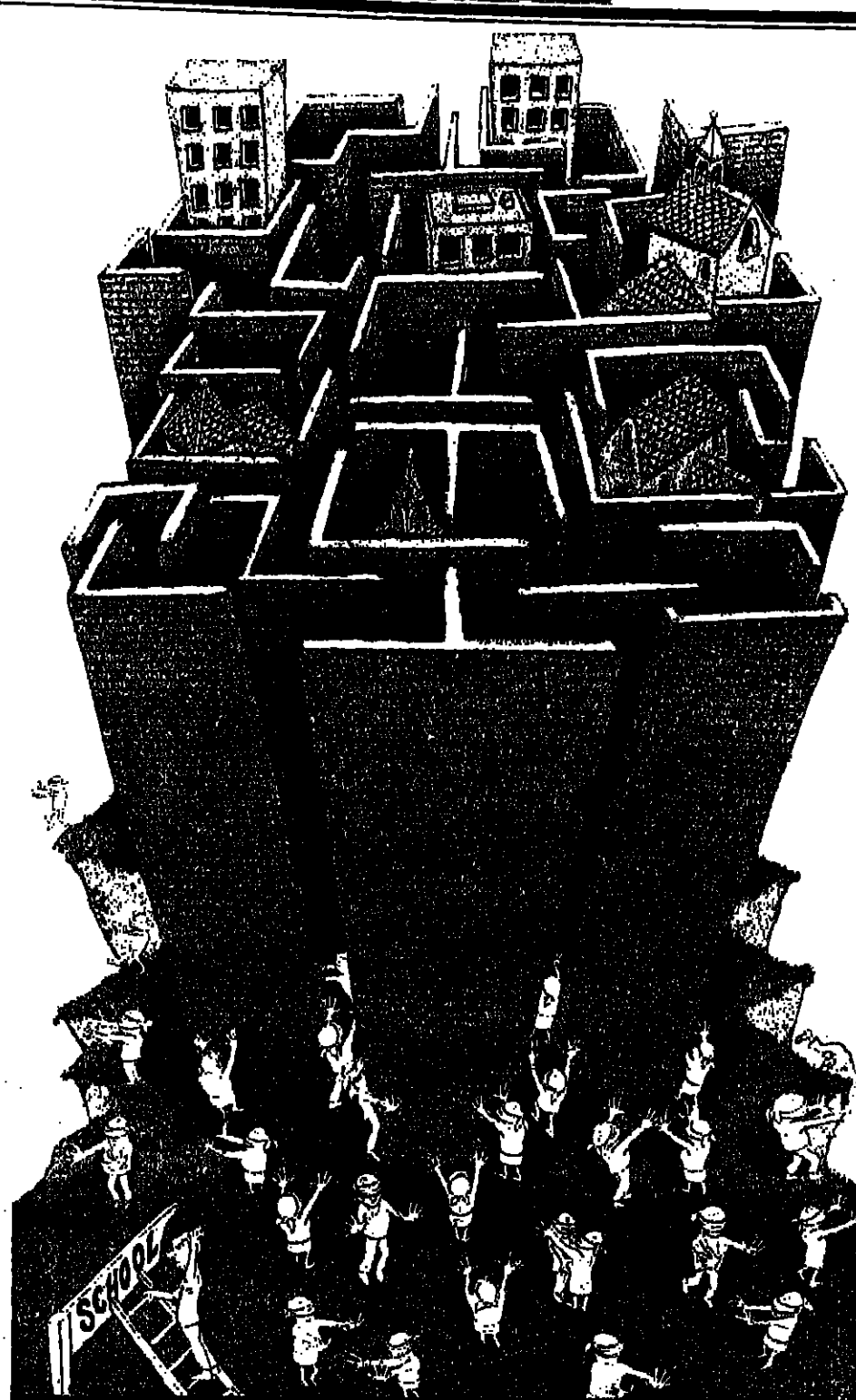
The eldest of our children, a daughter, is due for transfer to secondary school next September. Seeking opinions from as many quarters as possible, I found local parents who already had children at secondary school were largely satisfied. But on deeper questioning it was clear that these parents had no knowledge about the schools upon which to base their opinions, beyond hearsay evidence from other parents, no better informed than themselves.

Questioning their offspring about their schools, I realized that many were easily satisfied, and judged their school on different criteria from those I would use. But then, is it the pupils' opinions, or mine that really matter? It is not the head's pie-in-the-sky idealism that is most important but what happens in the classroom. So the next step seemed to be to go to some parents' introductory evenings.

What a show, and what amazing differences; and what a lot of educational parading, with no proof of what really goes on at all. Boys and girls were beavering away in the laboratories, trying to demonstrate principles they little understood, and largely unable to explain why they were doing what they were doing, except to admit that the teacher had suggested that they do this to put on a show for the visitors. Such a variety of apparatus on show that clearly, from the dust slippages in the cupboards, saw the benches rather rarely during the rest of the school year.

It was the same in the art rooms, silkscreen printing, rubbing shoulders with clay modelling and rather work, photography, pottery, 'straps' and oils. I know the school is trying to show what it can do during the five years of its primary education, but it is all so artificial. What I needed to know was the quality of the teaching, the quality of the rest of the children who attend (not merely those who clearly gave their best on these evenings, who were surely the better pupils anyway), the class group sizes, and the availability of all the things on show.

Parents who were there seemed to be none the wiser. When asked questions, but some answers were deliberately vague, or countered with



jargon, or with references to probable future staff changes, or changes in the local authority finance policy. I got the impression that the teachers wanted you to choose their school, but couldn't agree what were its strong points.

In some cases, the head got everyone in the hall for a speech first; this to me is wrong. I wanted to see the school, not be kicking my heels in the hall, waiting for latecomers to settle, and half listening to someone drone on about what could have been put into a duplicated handout. One very interesting idea, at an independent girls' school, was for the head to give a short talk every hour, for 10 minutes or so, during the evening. This gave smaller groups of parents a chance to meet the head, and a chance for an individual word; it also enabled people to avoid the head's talk altogether.

At a mixed state school, the parents' evening was a disaster. The head gave a 30-minute speech to a hall packed with parents, admittedly more than the head had thought would come; then he introduced three other teachers, who each gave a further talk, in turn. Each promised to be quick, and wasn't.

Parents were growing noticeably restless, and when all four had spoken, the head invited questions. At least 600 people crammed in, over an hour after we had been promised a short account of the school, and he asks for questions! The man's credibility plummeted as he calmly told us that he knew what we would be asking about discipline. There then followed a round about of the school's "occasional" use of the cane.

When he had finished, at least a group of about seven sixth-formers appeared, and we were invited to form ourselves into groups to be shown round by one of these pupils. The groups were so large that many parents gave up there and then, and went home. For those of us who stayed, we were treated to a saunter around the corridors, all the rooms being locked. Getting to the head of my group, I learnt that the head had asked the sixth form for volunteers only that morning, and most had already made plans to do other things. I discovered why the rooms were all locked, as we passed the schoolmaster with a huge bunch of

keys moaning to a teacher: "He told me there was a meeting in the hall - nothing about anything else." You may guess my response to that school; yet, amazingly, its reputation among the local parents is good.

Having attended several open evenings in the autumn term, and still being rather dubious about making a choice, I wrote and asked for examination statistics, and was not at all surprised by the variety of forms in which such statistics were presented. Some quite openly showed total numbers entered, and total numbers for each grade achieved by pupils. Even though this was not always flattering to the school, it presented an honest picture. Other schools paraded statistics in tables that were at best difficult to interpret, and at worst apparently deceptive; some told of their average grade compared with other local schools whose average grade was lower; some compared their grades with those which "would have been expected from the children's abilities as assessed on intake".

As a parent deeply concerned about my children's education, I am more impressed by good results, reflecting as it must both the quality of the teachers and the quality of the pupils who attend, than I am by a school's professed ability to make the most of what may be a poor general ability to learn. It was salutary for me to note that some independent schools were quite devious in their presentations of exam results, while others paraded names and grades with pride.

I read several accounts of how girls do better academically, especially in the sciences, in all-girls schools. Our authority has no girls' schools at all. Neighbouring L.E.A.s have just two girls' schools, and one of those is 30 miles away. There are three independent girls' schools in the vicinity. I wrote to the L.E.A. and they gently but firmly refused a request to provide girls-only education within the borough, but told me that if I were to obtain a place in an out-county school, they would pay the costs; providing it was a maintained school.

I also asked the primary school head for advice but he had his own axe to grind: it's not the school that matters, he said, if your daughter is going to

do well, she'll do well at any school. Beyond that, he steadfastly refused to be drawn into any particular recommendation. I realize the head has his professionalism to protect, but I have my daughter to educate, and I believe he knew a lot more than he was prepared to let on.

The next thought was to attempt to visit the school during a working day, to see if I'd be allowed to have a look round while the school was in session. Out of six schools approached, four agreed, and two politely declined (one maintained and one independent). I visited the four which allowed me in, and in three cases was escorted round by pupils, and in one case by the deputy head; I valued the former three visits more, since it was possible to quiz the pupils, and children in the corridors and in class paid little heed to a stranger with two pupils. The deputy head felt obliged to deal with little matters of discipline during our tour, and his aura pervaded. One school gave me a one and a half hour tour and an hour's chat with the head and deputy. Regal treatment indeed, and very much appreciated.

The choice of eight was narrowed down to one maintained school, and one independent. Both are on the shortlist because they were helpful, provided useful information, had sensible parents' evenings that were well-organized, and gave freely of their time to further our knowledge of them and what they seek to do. Both schools have pupils who are sensibly behaved on their way to and from the school; both heads admit to having faults in their schools which they are trying to correct, (two independents declared there were no faults at all), and both schools appeared to be working in a way that I should expect of a school as I walked round on my tours. My daughter liked them best of those whose parents' evenings she attended.

Then there were the entrance examinations for entry to an independent school. Even some maintained schools wanted to interview, and one selective school gave a test in November, which we had missed. In addition, the independents want money. One school required a registration fee, then in the next letter an examination fee, then later suggested that if we wished our daughter to enter the competitive scholarship examination we should send another cheque. So we forked out again, half expecting further demands for cash for a marking fee, or postage and packing on the results. But she got her scholarship.

But if the school takes in 120 each year, and 135 sit the entrance examination, most would be accepted anyway. Do these schools have artificially high fees and then award multiple part-scholarships to encourage parents? I rang two independent schools with these questions. Both heads told me that full scholarships were awarded to only one or two pupils each year, and that rarely more than five or six part-scholarships were offered. One head said 450 girls took one exam, for 80 places, the other head was cagey and declined to give me figures (their exam successes were veiled in possible misunderstandings too).

Despite all our efforts, questioning pupils at the schools (who mostly accept what their schools are doing is for the best, but who offer very valuable comments about individual teachers), talking with other parents, visiting the schools both at parents' evenings and during the working day, to what extent do we have a real choice? Some apparently excellent schools are beyond our reach, geographically, financially, or socially. Those that are fairly near are laden with questions still to be answered.

Has the primary head really got it right when he tells us still that the child who is prepared to get on will get on despite the school. And if this is true, what benefit is the school in such a case? How is this an argument for sending anyone to school at all? If the school presents opportunities for learning, and that is all, the sense of his remarks becomes clear. But surely there is more to school than that? Social life, personal relationships, after-school activities, even the form of the school day must make some difference?

Parents have a choice, greater or lesser depending on financial constraints and geographical location; but how can they choose effectively? I got the impression, talking to teachers, at the parents' evenings, that there are few schools without some very disgruntled teachers; on the whole it seemed to me there was no great divide among the teachers and equal diversity on all the staff. But I got the impression that maybe the maintained school staffs had to be slightly better on average, since they could expect to get more pupils who needed corrective words from time to time.

So which school is my daughter going to? Having narrowed down the possibilities, the choice is hers.

Peter Holman is a computer programmer living in Croydon.

REVIEWS

Body under stress

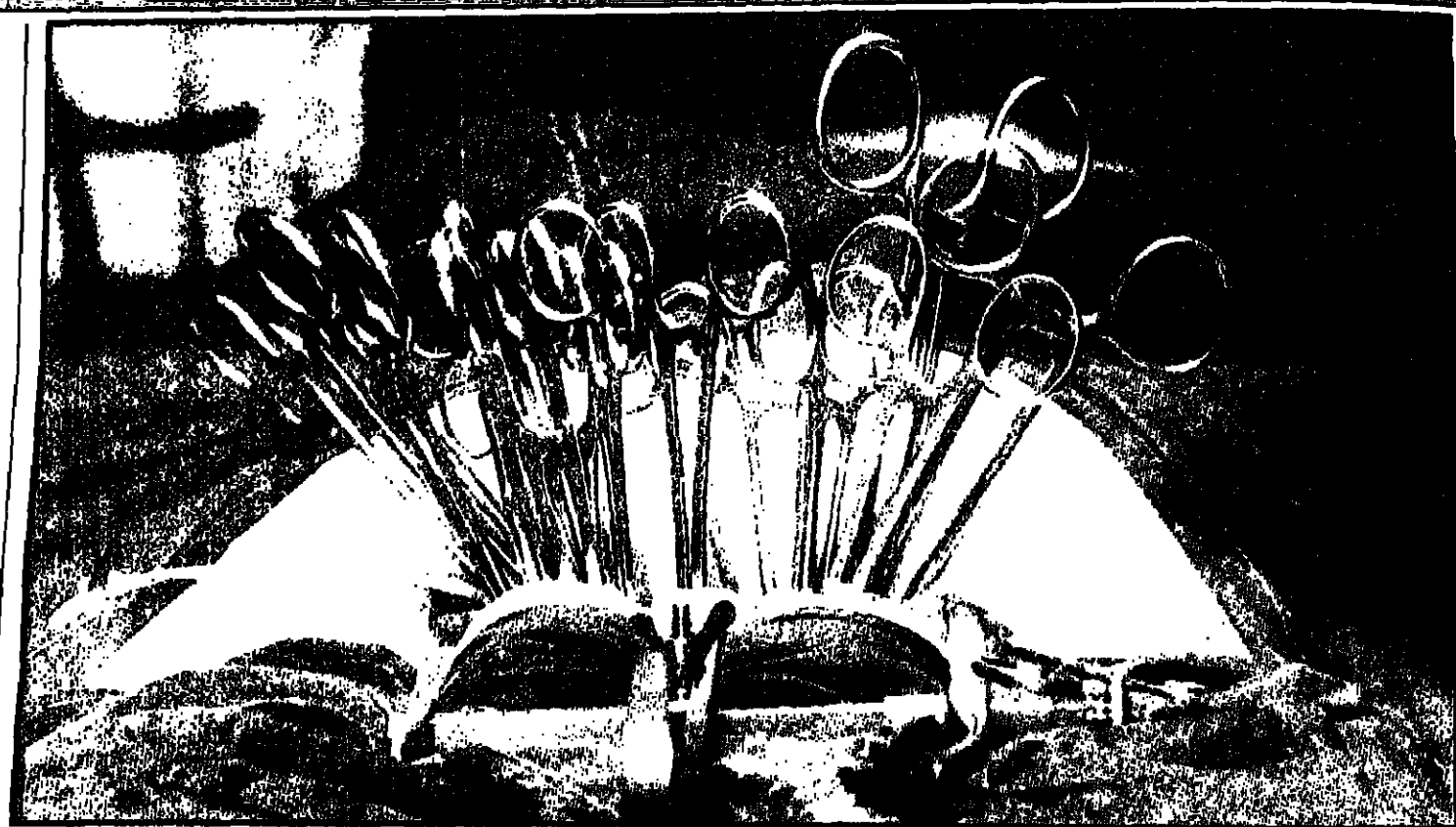
Peter Parker on the politics of health

Tales from Chirgwin Hospital. By Courtney Wade. Macmillan £12.00. 0 333 34745 5. £4.95. 34746 3. The AIDS Epidemic. Edited by Kevin Cahill. Hutchinson £3.95. 0 09 148651 3. Health Policy in Britain. By Christopher Ham. Macmillan £19.95. 0 333 30737 2. £5.95. 30738 0. The Social Geography of Medicine and Health. By John Eyles and Kevin Woods. Croom Helm £16.95. 0 7099 0257 3. The NHS: A Picture of Health? By Steve Iliffe. Lawrence and Wishart £3.95. 0 8531 5573 9. Cancer in Britain: The Politics of Prevention. By Lesley Doyal, Ken Green, Alan Irwin, Douglas Russell, Fred Steward, Robin Williams, David Gee and Samuel Epstein. Pluto Press £5.95. 0 8610 4394 4.

Perhaps because I have never been seriously ill, I see the health service as the media present it. In headlines: miracle workers, angels, palaces of technology, museums of madness or cruelty, reservoirs of compassion, dedication, inefficiency and bureaucracy—in short the home of everything British.

To most of these authors the NHS is a more straightforward matter. Since 1948 the health of everyone in Britain has improved, but the upper classes have outpaced the lower. Members of the working class see their general practitioner more often but specialists less frequently than their middle class counterparts. Inequalities in health have actually increased. Similarly with provision. More money has been spent on hospitals for the mentally ill and handicapped, but not as much as has been invested in acute hospitals. Meanwhile people have been abandoning old cities for new towns, but teaching hospitals continue to hog resources and remain concentrated in inner London. This exemplifies the NHS care: few those who need resources most have least access to them; though conversely there are few votes in slushy Westminster Hospital's centre for bone marrow transplants just to provide more district nurses in Herefordshire or Milton Keynes.

Looking over these perennial problems are three unquantifiable threats: an aging population, the old consume most medical care (64 per cent of general hospital beds are occupied by those aged 65 years and more); the medical profession's failure of devising more effective—and



usually more expensive—forms of diagnosis and treatment; and new diseases such as AIDS.

It is a failing that none of these books consider, in spite of intractable problems, no one seriously considers de-nationalizing or privatizing the hospitals. For the perennial difficulties have produced perennial explanations: poor management, a waste of resources, a lack of resources—Britain spends less of her gross national product on health care, currently £14 billion a year, than other developed countries—or the right of doctors to spend what they will on their patients. This is called the doctrine of clinical freedom. In which health care is rationed not by government dictat or a patient's ability to pay, but by the waiting list.

The present Government may seek to persuade us that its new style "efficiency savings" are quite different from old fashioned "cuts", but governments and health authorities can control doctors spending only by closing hospitals or wards, limiting the growth of essential support staff like nurses and technicians or of capital facilities such as kidney machines. They can also use research as an excuse to delay the introduction of, say, a tinnitus clinic or a nationwide breast screening programme.

In these hard times doctors and nurses must deploy peasant cunning to protect their budgets or beds from their equally needy colleagues. *Tales from Chirgwin Hospital* is a chatty collection of pointed anecdotes on this and other aspects of hospital life. It is intended for nurse managers. The key to extracting more money is the panic factor. Aids has this. It suppresses the body's immune system and is a fatal and transmissible disease. Already there is a national Aids centre at St Mary's Hospital, London. There is not space to discuss Kevin Cahill's book to commend it and its distinguished American contributors for producing a model of science writing, readable, accessible to the layman, and as careful in framing hypotheses as in admitting the still large areas of ignorance.

The next three books cover familiar NHS ground, and it is difficult to see why anyone would

read their accounts in preference to, *Inequalities in Health* by Townsend and Davidson (Penguin); *The Politics of the NHS* by Rudolf Klein (Longman), or for an international perspective *The Public/Private Mix for Health* by McLachlan and Maynard (Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust). Christopher Ham writes like a minor civil servant—reliable, dull, possibly better informed than he affects, but possibly not. To give but one example. In 1977 "Health authorities were encouraged to interpret national guidelines in the light of local conditions. This was perhaps no more than a pragmatic recognition that the DHSS lacked the means to impose its priorities on health authorities". For God's sake, Ham, specify. Who was involved, what did they think, were there no competing priorities, no professional or even individual conflicts of interest, or was this "pragmatic recognition" merely the result of exhaustion, as paper shuffled between finger and one committee meeting gave way to another?

From their base in the department of geography at Queen Mary's College, London, John Eyles and Kevin Woods heck their way through some rather dense jargon only to announce that the organization of a country's health service, the pattern and conception of disease and the location of clinics and hospitals are not unrelated to power and wealth. They disclaim any wish to have written something "really new". One can only agree that they have succeeded.

Steve Iliffe is a doctor. He has a refreshingly sharp pen, and has produced what critics call a good read. "The availability of abortion", he writes of the period before the 1967 Abortion Act, "depended on the interpretation of the law by gynaecologists, and such interpretation seemed sensitive to women's ability to meet private fees". He is, unfortunately, impatient with facts, when he cites them at all. Iliffe revisits history to make Kenneth Robinson a Conservative minister of health. He claims without any supporting evidence that the present Government bowed to pressure from insurance com-

panies and dropped its plans to recoup the cost of caring for victims of traffic accidents; but he neglects to say that the Road Traffic Act already gives health authorities powers to recoup such costs, and they do so, to the tune of £3.8 million a year.

"Health services," Iliffe writes, "do not usually make that much difference to the duration of our lives." One turns in expectation to *Cancer in Britain*, *The Politics of Prevention*, to discover why this largely incurable affliction continues unchecked. The book gets off to a misleading start, claiming that cancer is running at record levels, and that at least 20 to 40 per cent of cancers are work related. However, as Sir Richard Doll and Richard Peto have argued in their unrivalled report *The Causes of Cancer* (Oxford University Press), it is unlikely that more than 6 per cent of cancers are due to occupation and pollution, and once smoking related cancers are discounted, age related cancer mortality rates have remained remarkably stable in the last 50 years. Still, though weak on cancer, the authors present enough evidence on industry's complacency and subsequently discarded assurances to make one wonder why trade unions do not establish their own laboratory to test the new substances.

Part of the reason is the existence of the NHS. It may be an arena in which the class struggle or conflicts among professionals or between them and consumers are played out. But it is truer to say that the NHS has been a success precisely because it has offered enough to different groups for them to use it to fight for more. In so doing it has become one of the few institutions to have aroused a loyalty which bridges divisions of class and age. *Tales from Chirgwin Hospital* ends with as apposite an expression of this support as one could find. A patient had been admitted to a crumbling part of the hospital, "but everyone was so good to me there that the bricks and mortar did not matter in the least. I remember only the care; the kindness of the staff".

finding itself left behind by change belatedly scrambling hither and thither trying to find a new role. As so often with the insecure, frantic innovation is resorted to and the fear of being not "with it" has led to a re-writing of the Book of Common Prayer in incomprehensible jargon since a well-meaning Liverpool curate translated the Synoptic Gospels into Scouse; and a fear of not being "with it" to a theatrical outburst of the hands towards the other Christian churches as though we were all limbering up for Auld Lang Syne.

"At the same time the CoE has felt it should be seen taking a stance on every contemporary issue from abortion to nuclear warfare, and indeed has, without taking any uncompromising stance on a single one. This is left to the noisy groups within the Church—like the Christian pacifists. But in a withering look at their biblical literalism, T. E. Utley observes: "We may be told that it is our duty to turn the other cheek but we are not in any way guaranteed that it will not be taken advantage of". Several writers have pointed out that, in

significant changes has been the loosening of control which England traditionally held over her Church. "The Church's affairs are now almost entirely in the pure hands of bishops, clergy and elected laymen," observes C. H. Sisson, the poet. Yet this has not led to the religious character of the Church's utterances being strengthened. "What is most remarkable about the kind of social teaching proffered by the more articulate sections of the clergy in Britain is that it has no distinctively Christian character at all," observes Utley.

Dr Roger Homan, a sociologist, describes the machiavellian manipulations of the clergy in turn loaned on by their bishops, to push the parish where it doesn't want to go. And Peter Mullen, a country vicar, sets out the dangers of charismatic carry-ons, an exotic area predictably to bloom when main-line faith falters. "Mr Kilminster has produced a disturbing book, essential reading for every Anglican, significant for every English man or woman. Perhaps the worst of his life is not foolish—just faithless and fearful." Best I hope

ARTS

Art as a way of knowing

Trevor Pateman on some current theoretical tangles

The Arts: A Way of Knowing. Edited by Malcolm Ross. Pergamon Press £12.00. 0 08 030180 0. Art in the Age of Mass Media. John A. Walker. Pluto Press £4.95. 086104718 4.

What do teachers of the arts want? A larger or, at least, more secure place in the curriculum and rather more recognition of the value of what they are doing—a fair share of capitulation, no office exiles, support for in-service work, less philistinism in the staffroom. Of course not all schools do badly by the arts subjects; some do very well, some do their worst. It is this variability in standards of provision which best indicates that the arts have a low status in the education system, that they depend too much on the chance patronage of individual headteachers and the political talents of individual arts teachers. Unlike, say, mathematics, the arts in schools (except English) don't have a right to thrive, either as creative or appreciative disciplines. In these grim times that means—as the Gulbenkian Foundation's report *The Arts in Schools* (1982) opens by saying—that "existing levels of provision for the arts are actually being threatened".

Arts teachers and their supporters respond to this perception of their situation by banding together to stress what dance, drama and drawing have in common, and by acting on the belief that their way forward is intimately bound up with developing the philosophy of arts teaching. There is probably more philosophizing about the teaching of arts subjects than about the rest of the curriculum put together, and *The Arts: A Way of Knowing* is the latest addition to the literature (and fourth in the series *Curriculum Issues in Arts Education*, edited by Malcolm Ross, President of the newly-formed National Association for Education in the Arts).

I am not sure that this emphasis on philosophizing about the arts is entirely well placed but what, to begin with, do the philosophers of the arts in education claim? That in art individuals can find forms for expressing and responding to the expression of human feeling; that their ability to do so is not just a matter of skill, but of sensitivity; that what is expressed cannot be translated without residue into propositional form; and consequently that, in producing and appreciating works of art, we can make use of another way of knowing ourselves and others from that afforded by technique and science. In *The Arts: A Way of Knowing*, Louis Arnaud Reid (the grand old man of British philosophy of arts education) develops his account most explicitly: "the aesthetic apprehension of art is through felt cognition or cognitive feeling". Other currently influential

educationists (Peter Abbs, Malcolm Ross, Robert Witkin) argue along similar lines.

The idea of art as a sensitive way of knowing has much to be said for it though, arguably, it underestimates the extent to which aesthetic response is to formal properties of art works and, connectedly, it trades on the ambiguity of words like "sensitivity": from one approach, sensitivity always appears to be a good thing; from another, sadists are certainly sensitive to the pain they inflict, else they would not enjoy themselves. These possible objections aside, it can also be said that the Way of Knowing argument for art has been less developed than it could be. For example, the argument for the cognitive character of art making and aesthetic experience does not appear to lead its proponents to explore what is happening in contemporary cognitive psychology, which stresses the cognitive character of everything. Instead, the "psychology" we get here is of the Mills and Boon variety practised by H. J. Eysenck, a fantasy written to a formula—in the present instance, the formula is a "Visual Aesthetic Sensitivity Test" and the fantasy is the idea that the test can demonstrate the inateness of a sense of form. It may well be that the sense of form is innate, but the test doesn't show it or even make it probable. It is an understatement to say that Eysenck is not where it's at in psychology, and I wonder what Ross thinks he is doing further diffusing this stuff, which has been appearing on and off since 1940. If it's about the Assessment of Aesthetic Performance, then it must be said that this has nothing to do with devising an AQ (Aesthetic Quotient) test, and everything to do with dialogue about individual works.

To return to the philosophers, they have not paid adequate attention either to the part played in making an art what it is by its matter (pigment, sound and silence, movement, etc) or by the symbolic inscription of that matter, for example, according to particular artistic conventions. Taking the latter, philosophy of art would then connect to the semiotics of art as practised by the

Russian Formalists, Prague School Structuralists, Ernst Cassirer, Susanne Langer, and so on. In the Ross volume, none of these positions or persons get serious attention; Edmund Leach's romp around anthropological structuralism certainly doesn't discharge the obligation to connect to semiotics; in his views on art, Leach doesn't get beyond a brief restatement of what is in effect Viktor Shklovsky's 1917 claim that art makes the familiar strange (and Arnaud Reid defines the aesthetic attitude as Roman Jakobson defined the poetic function in the 1920s, as attention to the form of the message rather than its content).

Finally, the philosophers really are too far away from the contemporary practice of the arts outside of school and those who write about that practice: no contributor to the Ross volume, for example, mentions a Booker Prize winner, a contemporary film-maker, the most widely read author on art and society, the author of *Another Way of Telling*: none of them mention John Berger. What's at work here is the same kind of provincialism and academicism which also led to his omission from the *New Pelican Guide to English Literature, Volume 8, The Present* (see K. G. Mathison's review, *TES* November 18, 1983). Compare this with the admirable cosmopolitanism of Denis Donoghue's *Reith Lectures, The Arts Without Mystery* (1983).

This is where my doubts begin about the recourse to the philosophy of the arts in education as a strategy for arts teachers. For the problems arts teachers face, with pupils and colleagues and officialdom, stem not so much from lack of a coherent account of the nature of art as from the real world predicament of the arts, of art-making and art appreciation to which John Berger has among others and among other things, addressed himself. It is surely that predicament in which everyone lives, whether sensitive or insensitive to the arts. What is this predicament? It is partly an evaluative one, in a practical rather than contemplative sense: Video nasties are forms for the expression of human feelings, and they un-

doubtedly arouse feeling and stimulate the imagination in cognitive ways. In contrast, Mark Rothko's later works explore disturbing emotions, but they are not nasty and they don't have much of an audience (you'll find some in *The Tate* and a discussion in Peter Fuller's *Art and Psychoanalysis* [Writers and Readers]).

That easy contrast made, there is the more awkward question of why Robert Mapplethorpe's photographs of sado-masochism belong in the Institute of Contemporary Arts and page three of the *Sun* doesn't.

There are, of course, many distinctions both philosophical and practical to be made in arguments about these cases; the chief point for present purposes is that the evaluative question is bound up with the question of the actuality and potentiality of "the arts" in an age of mechanical reproduction. Where in music, for example, does art-making and art-appreciation ("sensitive knowing") begin and end? Colin Painter is indirectly addressing this sort of question in his interesting contribution to the Ross volume, concerned with what people hang on their walls and why (Watch out! There's a sociologist of culture about!).

John Walker addresses it directly in his *Art in the Age of Mass Media*. This is boldly presented as a continuation of John Berger's *Ways of Seeing*, and it is agreeable to confirm that the book succeeds in being this. It's lucid, well-documented and argumentative, wearing its socialist convictions on its sleeve. Any sixth-former or art college student on a course from which discussion of controversial issues has not been banned would be informed and stimulated by this book. But then in showing how fine artists have responded in different ways to the mass media, and in illustrating how fine art can be placed at the service of the revolution (or, at least, of community politics), Walker's informativeness doesn't answer those nagging questions of value and, in equating the way forward for the fine arts with their socialist inflection, threatens to foreclose on the exploration of the aesthetic, whatever that mysterious thing is.

In educational contexts especially, providing the arts with a Purpose, whether as community politics or as craft, design and technology, is always to risk losing the experience of the aesthetic dimension, especially in so far as that dimension is akin to play. Three-year-olds don't need a purpose for their art; top-model 13-year-olds think they do; a belief in which they are encouraged by all the Grandgrinds of Right and Left. In such a situation, what arts educators really need is the confidence to yawn at Grandgrind's speeches.

Going public

Forty Minutes: Educating Michael. BBC March 1. TV Eye.

Eleven-year-old Michael, son of a Barrow shipyard worker, had always wanted to go to public school. In BBC 2's *Forty Minutes* programme on the assisted places scheme last week his mum told us why: "You see, he's read these books like *Goodbye Mr Chips* and various Enid Blyton books and he fell in love with it."

She's right of course. The most effective propaganda isn't a Neil Kinnock speech or an HMI report: it's a dashing good adventure story, or a novel that can make you laugh and cry; and the state system has failed dismally to produce its own propaganda. No ripping yarns that a nine-year-old can curl up in bed with.

Even when Michael comes home at half term and entertains his brother and sisters with the story of a classmate who had run away and threatened suicide because he was homesick, it produced a nervous laugh around the tea table as though it was another piece of school fiction. Anyway it was a small price to pay for the relief of being spared the local comprehensive. As one of the AFS beneficiaries put it in the programme: "I've had a terrible education if I hadn't come here."

Why? Well, we weren't told. Apart from a few references to book shortages in the state system, the assumption that the private sector was less than ideal was never made explicit. It was the government's original



Michael Light at St Bees School, Cumbria

decision to launch the scheme in 1979. And they never explained why either.

But if *Forty Minutes* did not address itself to the merits or otherwise of the scheme, the upheaval that could occur for Michael and others with a future Labour government pledged to repeal it, and the curiousness of ministers in charge of the state system tacitly, indeed implicitly, admitting that it cannot cope with bright children, the programme did at least give a splendid record of a young child's first term at boarding school.

Certainly the staff at £4,000 a year St Bees in Cumbria seemed to take a special pride in their assisted places pupils and devote a good deal of care and attention to them. It would be fascinating to see how Michael has fared in five years time, not only academically but also in his relationship with his family. It, for one, has yet to be convinced that the best way of loving one's children and helping them to grow up into good citizens is to send them away for 30 weeks of the year.

Wherever Mr Chips might have taught, one feels it probably wasn't Liverpool. Though the venerable did

gentleman had his problems, he was at least certain of his monthly salary cheque. The teachers of Liverpool are not.

TV Eye's coverage last Thursday of the local council's confrontation with the government and their determination to present an illegal budget failed to provide much enlightenment, because the whole ruling Labour group refused to talk to the programme or to let its cameras into any of their public meetings.

This was a silly decision. The council's argument that it campaigned openly and extremely successfully on a manifesto of increasing rather than cutting services has a certain unimpeachable logic to it and it was a case that they should have put.

It was interesting that TV Eye dwelt on the figure of council deputy leader Derek Hatton. Even though he did not even appear on the programme he was the name on everyone's lips. Young, articulate, good looking, charismatic and militant tendency to boot—he has all the makings of a media bogey man. We'll be hearing more of him.

David Lister

PLR bonus

It all started in 1951 with John Brophy's advocacy of what became known as "Brophy's Penny", a sort of royalty for authors based on the borrowings of their books from public libraries.

The campaign continued in varying forms for the next 21 years until the Writers Action Group (WAG) was founded by Brigid Brophy, Maureen Duffy and others for the specific purpose of securing a centrally-funded Public Lending Right scheme. In 1975 WAG merged with the Writers' Guild which, together with the Society of Authors, gave the campaign its considerably larger support.

On February 24, 1984 all those authors who had registered were paid at the rate of 1.02p per borrowing of each of their books from a selected sample of libraries throughout the

British Isles. On February 29 at a reception organized by the Writers' Guild, Lord Gowrie, Minister for the Arts, presented six prominent authors (including Brigid Brophy) with their cheques, thus demonstrating that Public Lending Right, long overdue, has now become a reality.

But PLR isn't just about money. It can't be because, thanks to the fixed sum of £2 million allotted by government (a third of which is absorbed by administration costs), the sums involved are still relatively small, as Lord Gowrie himself admitted. It is also about recognition—not only the recognition of a right, but the recognition of authors as a body of people actively communicating with their fellow men and women. They now have proof that their books are being read, even if they are out of print. Most authors have not had this sort of feedback before and it has come as an unexpected psychological bonus.

Ellen West

Faithless and fearful

When Will Ye Be Hear? The State of the Church of England. Edited by Anthony Kilminster. Blond and Brown £12.95. 0 85641 148 0.

The Old Testament doesn't go in for pulling punches. "Ye people, when will ye be wise?" cries the psalm that furnishes Mr Kilminster with the title of this book. If Mr Kilminster brings Christian compassion refrains from throwing the whole question of the state of the church into the less inhibited

The *et cetera* of the title is to those who run the Church of England today, because to many a distinguished commentator it appears to be running in several directions—all wrong ones. So much so that Bishop Stephen Neill starts off this collection of 15 essays by calling his own "The Church of England: has it a future?" Other chapter headings include "Engagement in the world", "Machiavelli and the sacred ministry", and "Do we want a national church?"

What emerges all the while is the feeling that the church is in a state of confusion and that it is difficult to see why anyone would

Several writers have pointed out that, in

NAEA

National Association for Education in the Arts

ONE-DAY CONFERENCE: ASSESSMENT IN THE ARTS

Friday, 27th April, 1984 from 10.30 to 3.30

Jeffery Hall, Institute of Education, University of London, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0AL

A conference to formulate the Association's response to the Assessment of Performance Unit Report 'Assessing Development'

Chairman: Malcolm Froese, Exeter University School of Education.

Guest Speaker: Professor David Aspin, King's College, University of London.

Panel includes: R. S. Fowler, H.M.I.; Jann Heworth, Artist, Professor Keith Swannick, London University Institute of Education, Colin Vickers, Secretary Joint Matriculation Board.

For details of conference and association membership send a.s.a. to: Peter Stedman, Conference Co-ordinator, Mill Lane, Shearby, Leicestershire.

ARTS

Elizabethan throng

Divided Worlds. Glynne Wickham Studio Theatre, University of Bristol, Department of Drama, February 29.

From the first thrust of the Elizabethan throng in the foyer - "give way, sirrah!" - we are clearly destined for a mingling of divided worlds, that encompassed poetry, masque and pageant, pulpit and scaffold-stage. Actors and observers stood cheek by cheek, beggars and hallooed sellers clustered around the Court, and social hierarchies were no sooner defined than overturned. "Where there is no right order, there reigneth all abuse".

This lively evocation of the nine decades between the accession of Elizabeth I and the execution of Charles I drew upon more than 40 sources, literary and documentary, to illustrate varying attitudes to the monarchy, reverence, satirical and republican. "The shining glory of princely authority" was emphasized by lofty projections of contemporary portraits, and the visual and musical effects deployed by these second-year students were as

exuberant as their acting. The production was designed to attract sixth form audiences with its shocks and surprises, sharp contrasts, rapid transitions, close combat, and highlights of patrician gore. In a chronological miscellany of this sort, there is something to be said for youthful ignorance of the original text. Reminders of the historical context of dramatic experts can be an unwelcome distraction when the Charge of the Lord President against (the real) Charles I is apparently answered by an indignant speech from Richard II (a figment of Shakespeare's imagination) two and a half centuries earlier.

No such polemic preoccupations muted the enthusiastic applause that greeted this experimental venture which is to be followed by an equally ambitious series of Chekhov productions - three new adaptations of short stories: "Case History," "Ward Six," and "The Grasshopper," March 14 to 17 and *Tramov*, the first major work that established Chekhov's reputation, March 22-25.

Marion Glastonbury

After Forsyth

Gregory's Girl. By Bill Forsyth. Beachamp College, Oadby, Leicestershire.

That everyone of course remembers the film could be intimidating to a director. This school production by M J McManus, however, showed no sign of apologizing for itself. It rattled along in a series of short, pithy and entertaining scenes, played by a cast which was always competent and sometimes excellent.

The wisdom of casting Richard Lacy as Gregory was confirmed by the way that the eye went unerringly to him at the start before we knew who he was. Here is a young actor with real understanding of how to communicate with face and gesture. He was supported by a well-produced and entirely charming cast who never forgot that good drama is fun both for the actors and the audience. Pete Sutton, for example, revelled in his playing of

the beautifully observed PCE teacher. The choreography by Lucy Thomas was excellent - how refreshing to see such relaxed and yet impeccably rehearsed ensemble work.

The use of back projected slides deserves a special mention. An obvious enough device in itself, it was here carried out with great artistry and skill. The equipment was sophisticated and reliable - wonder enough in the world of amateur theatre - but above all Paul Burnett's amazingly varied and imaginative photographs were a delight to see and added very significantly to the success of the production. One sequence of Gregory and Dorothy shot in difficult light on a freezing morning was particularly impressive.

This was a good evening out and reinforced once again the wisdom of Leicestershire's commitment to the performing arts.

Gerald Haigh

Welfare work

Engineers of the Imagination. Edited by Tony Coulthart. Batsford, 1983. Pp. 255. £5.95. 0 413 52800 6.

Engineers of the Imagination reads rather like the Old Testament. It is a mixture of history, lyrical description, philosophy, prescriptive do's and don'ts and even food laws. And well it might be, for the book, edited by Tony Coulthart and Baz Kershaw, is subtitled The Welfare State Handbook and gathers together the accumulated wit and wisdom of that most extraordinary community theatre company.

Probably no other group in the world has more experience of devising and presenting large-scale, outdoor, celebratory theatre. Equally, there is probably no other book which gives instructions for building giant puppets

(really giant puppets, the sort that use a car as a base), triggering explosions, lighting beacon bonfires and carrying professional images. *Engineers of the Imagination* does, together with recipes for simple, large-scale catering and invaluable check-lists of the various legal niceties which have to be gone through before - long before - an outdoor public event can happen.

Devotees of the company will also find much of interest relating to the Welfare State philosophy and the overall objectives governing its work. But the book is mostly aimed at directors, designers, actors, teachers, and anyone else charged with organizing what used to be called "a happening". At the blueprints, it is a book to get straight to work on. Copyright 1983.

Hugh David

Language talk

Words in Everyday Life. By G L Brook. Macmillan 1983. Pp. 333. £2.75.

The achievement of this book is its revelation of the endlessly diverse influences that go to make up the subtleties and richness of English as we know it today. It demonstrates how the language reaches back through the centuries, draws from the four corners of the world, absorbs or adapts vocabulary and phrases from the toughest of jobs and most delicate of skills, from every craft and sport, from crime and slang, from the church - notably the Bible and Book of Common Prayer - and the law. It is shown how words change their meaning or their use, and how

or both, how two or three words, sometimes from different languages and centuries, are welded together to form new words in significance and other details.

The very fact that to some extent the book reads too much like a catalogue broken up by anecdote or explanation (and would have been the better for more of both of these) adds to the feeling of the vastness of the language. Professor Brook shows how the development of words and phrases is a process of inevitable changes without losing an understanding of which changes come and which stay.

John Water



Celia Gore-Booth in "Enslaved by Dreams"

Ode to Nightingale

Enslaved by Dreams. Monstrous Regiment, Institute for Contemporary Arts until March 10, then touring.

I thought *Enslaved by Dreams*, about Florence Nightingale, was going to be yet another one of those dramatized biographies in which the central character spouts great goblets of his or her writings with the occasional pause for a bit of stage narrative.

I'm happy to say that Monstrous Regiment proved me wrong. The play presents us with three Florences. One is young, exuberant and unfulfilled, one is older and almost self-destructive in her fight to win her Crimean war - against disease, that is, not against the Russians. The third is bedridden, hypochondriacal, yet still forceful in her campaign for health reform.

The play doesn't confer heroic status on Florence Nightingale. In fact, through the interplay of the three characters as sisters - a clever device which neatly addresses the problem of creaky narrative convention - we see Florence's obsessions, regrets and weaknesses exposed. Above all, she believed, women were too much victims of their imaginations and perceptions of themselves: "Dreaming, never accomplishing. Thus women live, too much ashamed of their dreams."

Florence's dreams were of national reform in the area of health and sanitation. Her nightmares were about the death and decay she witnessed in the Crimea. The play too is dream-like - intriguing and disturbing in turn. The set, depicting Florence's bedroom, is full of anachronistic props - electric lights, ballpoint pens and computer stationery. Throughout the play there are dances - acrobatic ballets with tea-cups, stately waltzes, and at the end, an Indian whirling-dervish affair, all flying hair and billowing skirts.

The performances in *Enslaved by Dreams* are sensitive and funny and Chris Bowler's script (with plenty of help from Florence Nightingale's notes and journals) is fresh and challenging. At the end we're left with a new perspective on a character from history who has always seemed rather two-dimensional - a sort of saintly Queen Victoria in close. Monstrous Regiment's portrayal is refreshingly (if slightly disturbingly) different.

Nick Baker

For tour details after March 10, telephone 01-247 2398.

John James

Garden party

Brook Puppets. Leasowes Primary School, Smeeth, West Midlands.

There was poignant irony at the start of "The Magical Garden". In Brook's (Diana) Puppets' question to this young audience: "A few days of you like gardening?" A few days of carriage-way, rous past the front of the school and the railway at the back, while from every window is a vista of concrete blocks and terraces of flats. But in the school itself the colours and textures of the children's vivid artwork warm the walls, setting the scene for an equally "magical" production by this travelling puppet master.

A giant figure in bright green boots, sunglasses and bowler hat, Hazzard's Colours and Bowlers the children's world.

Focusing their concentration on the play and their part in the plot, passing up essential information from one character to another and doing garden-games to help clear an overgrown garden. Afterwards there's a chance to see the workings of the puppet booth and the very ordinary materials from which Judith Harkness's excellent hand and stick figures are made.

The long (one and a quarter hours), running time of the performance cut this section rather too short and some replanning to allow the children more time to satisfy their fascination with the production side would make a more balanced programme.

Ann Fitzgerald

Brook Puppets can be contacted on 01-247 2398.

Black and white sparkle

Playboy of the West Indies. By Mustapha Matura. Tricycle Theatre. Boesman and Lena. By Athol Fugard. Hampstead Theatre.

Mustapha Matura has done John Millington Synge proud. Nine years ago *The Playboy of the Western World*, produced by NT at the Old Vic, induced boredom leaving one wondering at what was supposed to be comic about it. Matura's sparkling adaptation *Play of the West Indies* leaves no doubt: he has refashioned a masterpiece to Synge's and his own credit. For Ireland read Trinidad; for Mayo, Mayaro. Margaret Flaherty becomes Peggy; Christy, Ken; Widow Quin, Mama Benin and so on.

But the changes go deeper than shifting place and altering names. For the black humour of a depressed Irish peasantry we have a warm, sexy humanity of a people who know how to live.

Nicholas Kent's beautifully placed Oxford Playhouse production includes two brilliantly comic lively set-pieces: the hilarious jostling for Ken's favours by Mama Benin, Ivy and Alice; the chair-top description of the regatta. Mona Hammond's wonderfully funny Mama Benin; Joy Richardson's energetically erotic Alice; Jim Findley's shyly vulnerable Ken are splendid in an excellent company of black actors doing what no white actors could - superbly.

More superb acting - black and white - in the revival of Athol Fugard's *Boesman and Lena* directed by Clare Davidson. Dermot Hayes setting, the skeleton of a boat on a gull-raked shore, epitomizes "the backyard of the world" where "the white man's rubbish" (material and human) is thrown. Boesman and Lena, two Cape-coloureds, have been bulldozed out of their pondock-shack by government order: one more forced eviction.

Another, stark, "A mongrel and his bitch", their relationship is based on violence and need: his to have someone on whom to satisfy his machismo, hers to be noticed. He torments, she endures; she taunts, he explodes and betters a "kaffir" already dead.

It sounds horribly depressing yet one leaves the theatre exhilarated, loving people more. Fugard's writing is one reason why; his artistic sureness in showing that even the bully has poetry in him; his introduction of a man even more untouchable to excite pity and love. Another reason is the fine acting of Tommy Buson as "kaffir" Outa, Stuart Wilson as Boesman, and, especially, Janet Suzman as Lena. Acting against type, her looks and natural superiority inviting initial disbelief, she works with such profound commitment and searing truth that it is almost unbearable moving to watch her. That "coloureds" are played by "whites" underlines the inhuman stupidity of the labelling. A good play, well directed, marvellously acted.

Among this week's contributors:

Susan Lloyd's new edition of *Rogers' Thesaurus*, first published by Longman in 1982, is to be published by Penguin in April.

Dr Trevor Pateman directs an MA course in Language, the Arts and Education at Sussex University. Gillian Peele is Fellow and Tutor in Politics at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Next week

Fiction in focus: Brian Morton on Elizabeth Bowen, Kenny Mathieson on Philip Roth and Barry Cole on William Golding.

A sense of freedom

Dimensions of Tolerance: What Americans Believe About Civil Liberties. By Herbert McCloskey and Alida Brill. Harper & Row £25.50, 0 87154 591 8.

The recent controversy over the General Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham underlines the extent to which any democratic political system may suddenly be posed with difficult questions about civil liberties. In that instance the question was not merely the extent to which civil servants enjoy the right to form trade unions and to engage in industrial action but also the extent to which a free political system should limit certain freedoms if their exercise could endanger the overall safety of the whole society. The British polity in many ways is ill equipped to handle these questions since the approach to civil liberties and individual freedoms has been a very pragmatic one and the courts, in the absence of any broad statement of principles, have adopted a similarly cautious and case by case method of dealing with such conflicts.

In the United States, by contrast, the existence of a written constitution which makes elaborate provision for the protection of individual rights, and the determination of the judiciary to make those rights effective, make the formal constitutional position very different. Yet how far, it may be asked, has the Supreme Court's handling of such contentious issues as the claim by Nazis that they have the right to march in Jewish suburbs of Chicago or the suggestion that suspects should be protected both with elaborate provisions and with government-funded lawyers, found acceptance among the wider American public? Herbert McCloskey and Alida Brill in this wide-ranging study examine the attitudes underlying the courts' pronouncements on such matters as freedom of speech and freedom of the press, symbolic speech and conduct, freedom of assembly and of religion and the various issues associated with privacy and lifestyle. Their

discussion - which is based on two extensive surveys conducted in 1976-77 and in 1978-79 - offer a fascinating insight into how comprehensively the values of tolerance and concern for civil liberties are understood. What emerges is just how fragile the support for certain kinds of freedom really is even in a society such as the US.

One reason why it is vital to combine an appreciation of public opinion with what judicial and other governmental authorities decide in relation to civil liberties, is that the threats to personal and political freedom in the US as elsewhere can be traced as often to the informal tyranny of majority preferences as to formal governmental action. In the opinion of McCloskey and Brill, the "many forms of intimidation and human oppression" are as likely to be found at the level of the neighbourhood, the community and the reference group as in the political arena. And they correctly point out that men and women often "pay more attention to opinions of their peers and neighbours than they do to the attitudes and potential actions of their rulers" so that these pressures for the average citizen are all the more immediate and pervasive.

McCloskey and Brill are insistent that tolerance results from a learning process. It is likely to be affected by such factors as education as well, of course, as the general milieu in which an individual spends his early years. Elites in any society, except where they are part of a distinct sub-culture such as the hard right or the hard left, are likely to absorb the values of tolerance more easily than the general population. Partly this is because, as McCloskey and Brill point out, "libertarian norms are difficult to learn". Partly it is because the elite - those who are most likely to play an active part in the country's social and political life - are more likely to be aware of the discussions and controversies which attempt to reconcile problems in this field.

It is in this sense that the US has an enormously valuable instrument of political education in the Supreme

Court. Through the court's opinions that body can encourage support for values such as the various due process rights which might otherwise not command popular endorsement. One of the chief arguments, indeed, of those who advocate the adoption of some form of bill of rights for the UK is that such a statement of basic liberties could be used by the British courts, not merely to offer additional specific protections to British citizens, but as a way of educating the population in the practical meaning of the country's commitment to human rights. For those who see such arguments as academic, the recent experience of British violations of the conventions should at least cause reflection on whether we can long afford to indulge in the insular arrogance which has kept us from incorporating the convention on human rights into British law.

Commitment to support civil liberties in the abstract is not of course any guarantee that an individual freedom will gain approval in any specific situation where it is put to the test. Indeed one of the general findings from the survey data used by the authors is the way in which, across a whole range of issues, a respondent's general support for a freedom such as that of speech declines when the respondents find it used or "abused" to advocate unpalatable or offensive views. The ideals of Jefferson, Madison and Mill may be inspiring in theory; but the ability to internalize those "sages' tolerant scepticism is distinctly limited.

Ultimately this is a book which could be used as a teaching aid in a number of contexts and, although based on American data, its relevance is not confined to the US. And it is an invaluable supplement to our knowledge of the social bases of democratic and libertarian values. It would be unkind to suggest that a free copy should be sent to the Foreign Secretary but it would certainly benefit Mrs Mary Whitehouse. It could also be a useful preparation for Britain's next appearance at Strasbourg.

Gillian Peele



"Heading South", 1934, from Walker Evans At Work - a fascinating collection of 745 photographs which reveal how this American artist altered what he recorded to achieve the desired image. Thames and Hudson £7.95.

lingo

Euphemisms

The words we now use to describe people who depart in some way from the physical or mental norm might suggest that our society is indeed becoming a more caring one. For instance, instead of using nouns, such as "cripples", which suggests this is all one needs to know about someone, we tend to use adjectives, implying that their handicap is just part of a person's make-up: "physically/visually/mentally handicapped". Negative positives have replaced the old, blunter terms: "non-" or "partially sighted", "hard of hearing", "speech impaired", and these can also convey degrees of disability.

The same trend is seen with reference to mental handicap. The old terms "retard", "cretin", "imbecile", "mongol", have all been replaced by "discredited by their use as insults. The

solution here is to use medical terminology: "Down's syndrome", "thyroid deficiency", and so on. This sounds more objective and authoritative, and stresses the physical origin of mental handicap, so making it more acceptable. The negative positive is used too: "slow learners", "less able" or "educationally subnormal". The tactfulness of the latter is lost by abbreviating it to "ESN", which is rapidly going the way of "idiot".

This is because euphemisms, once shown up for what they are, quickly degenerate into pejorative labels of the very kind they were intended to replace. The same is happening with "educationally subnormal" itself. New words in educational circles: The current favourite is "children with special needs". How long will that last?

But not all our euphemisms show society in a favourable light. Some make excuses for antisocial behaviour: people are "maladjusted" rather than "criminally inclined", or they are said to act that way because they happen to be "disadvantaged" or "underprivileged", "deprived" rather than "deprived", as they say in *West Side Story*.

Young people come off particularly lightly: if they commit a crime, they are

simply "young offenders": if they play truant, they are "school refusers", a term which implies they have a choice, and if they leave school without reaching their full potential through truancy or laziness, they are labelled "underachievers", which implies no blame.

Age inspires less understanding and so requires euphemisms of another kind. "Elderly" is less blunt than "old". "Senior citizens", attempts to confer dignity and prestige, but sounds patronizing, because of its Latin origins. "Over-sixties" is a no-nonsense term much in favour for social clubs, while "old folks" has a cosy image. "Retired people" is better than "pensioners", as it suggests a well-earned rest rather than reliance on the State.

Unemployment, like old age, is also becoming something many of us cannot avoid, and sympathetic euphemisms have been found for it. The negative "unemployed" is often replaced by "jobless", stressing the lack of work available. "Unwaged" is even better, pointing out the absence of payment which is the nub of the matter.

Susan Lloyd

More euphemisms next week.

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BOOKS

Parallel worlds

Collected Poems. By Wallace Stevens.
Faber £4.95. 0 571 13214 6.

"What, Willy a poet!" Wallace Stevens' colleagues at the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company were startled to learn of their vice president's literary prominence. In both his worlds - insurance and poetry - Stevens was an isolated and unorthodox figure: ill at ease in literary circles; politely resistant to others' work; walking lonely miles to and from the office in a car-dominated and obsessively convivial society.

Stevens insisted that he cultivated both his careers with equal and whole-minded concentration. Yet, acknowledging his success in both tends to imply a sharp separation between them. This is mistaken. As a poet, Stevens was an amateur and an escapist in the better sense of both words. The subject of his curiously detached verse was always the relationship between reality (the harsh contingencies that cross an insurance executive's desk) and the imagination. If insurance tends to reduce individuals to statistics, circumstances, actuarial projections, Stevens' poetry is strikingly depopulated. Empiricism, isolation and physical space are great American themes. Stevens' job reinforced an existing literary subject.

For Stevens, the imagination was neither a process nor a state but another place, inhabited only by the poetic self. Poetry, the imagination generally, was not transcendent, an overcoming of earthly concerns, but an alternative to them, an escape into a parallel world. "Life is an affair of people not of places. But for the life is an affair of places and that is the trouble," Stevens was an armchair traveller - "I survive on postcards from Europe" - and like Dostoyevsky Rous-



seau's idea of foreignness was formed in deliberate contrast to his everyday surroundings. The semi-tropical and equatorial lands obsessed him and fuelled his complicated colour symbolism: red, green, black, the white of negation and death (typically American), with blue, for the imagination, overarching all like the sky.

His poetry has been described, with only a partial grasp of the paradox, as "lyrical meditation". At one extreme, it is playful, brash, full of sounds, bird-cries, coinages and strange names (tephre, mundo, Hoon, Hæ-de-me) at the other, measured, discursive and magisterial, almost as if theorizing about itself. One of Stevens' most characteristic tricks is to give his most opaque playful poems the most descriptive (and apparently explanatory) titles: "Poetry is a Destructive Force", "The Search for Sound Free from Motion", "Not Ideas About the Things but the Things Itself". Other poems pose as Impressionist images or genre paintings: "Gray Stones and Gray

Pigeons", "Angel Surrounded by Paysans".

Stevens' first collection, *Harmonium*, was published in 1923. Such was the consistency and continuity of his output that he considered calling the first edition of the *Collected Poems* (published a year before his death, in 1954) "The Whole of Harmonium". There is always a slight feeling of overdone in any collected or complete edition; with Stevens, the switching of styles and the consistency of his concerns can become irksome; few poets gain more from being excerpted.

Stevens' very best poems, "Sunday Morning", "The Man With The Blue Guitar", "Esthétique du Mail", "An Ordinary Evening in New Haven", are those in which the balance of sound and sense, expression and meaning, is most completely achieved. Stevens' keyword became "fiction": "we could no longer really believe in anything unless we recognized it as a fiction". For someone for whom imagination was the supreme reality, this was the "missing" element in the work and in Stevens' poetic personality. For the imagination is the quintessential human attribute, the one that separates us from the physical world of accident, chance, growth and death that Stevens lacked at his desk.

His closest attempt at an aesthetic credo came in his long poem of 1942 "Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction". Its three sections were called "I Must Be Absent", "I Must Change", "I Must Give Pleasure". Later, Stevens was to say that there was a missing fourth section "I Must Be Human". Whether that was a recognition of failure or another attempt to pull tight a unifying thread to his work will remain a point of issue.

Brian Morton

Task master



Cowper's Task: Structure and Influence. By Martin Priestman.
Cambridge University Press £19.50.
(Hb) 236 53 6.
The Poetry of William Cowper. By Bill Hutchings.
Croom Helm £12.95. 0 7099 1249 8.

The poet Cowper wrote:
When some hypothesis absurd and vain
Has filled with all its fumes a critic's brain,
The text that sorts not with his
... darling whim,
Though plain to others is obscure to him.

Two thoroughly professional critics address the poet, once enormously popular, whose works are now difficult to find. Dr Priestman takes a radical line, arguing that Cowper needs the reader as hostile critic as punchbag ... resorting to insults to get his point across.

The *Task* is a rambling poem which starts with furniture as emblem of advancing civilization, goes on to discuss social corruption and the role of the clergy, how to grow cucumbers, and the comforts of home life, in Miltonic blank verse. Jane Austen loved it: for years the poem gave simple enjoyment to many. T S Grimshaw, editing Cowper in 1849, found the "poem of such infinite variety that it seems to include every subject and every style without any violation of harmony and order ...". Forgotten now except by the learned, its influence is diffused: it is "full of quotations".

Dr Priestman's is the first full-length analysis. Wordsworth described the poem as a "composite of idyll, didactic poem and philosophical satire". Dr Priestman asks, wisely, why does the poem keep changing direction? What is "the Task"? He finds in the poem's abrupt transitions a certain "cock-eyed consistency" and concludes that the cucumbers are the key image of the poem itself, which is, like vegetables, produced with difficult labour to be exposed in the market-place. This reading is more convincing than Blom's, in which the cucumbers are emblem of the Christian soul. Dr Priestman's argument becomes speculative, though, when he writes that John Gilpin's horse is Cowper's *Pegasus*, the inspiration which impels him forward, but which he may not be able to control.

Bill Hutchings's scrupulous, useful introductory book sets the poems in their context of Latinity and Christianity. He valuably reminds us that Cowper's recurrent image of the "cast-away" comes from St Paul - a scholarly fact worth pages of critical speculation.

Valerie Grosvenor Myer

Pairshape

Three Literary Friendships. By John Lehmann.
Quartet Books £8.95. 0 7043 2370 2.

John Lehmann has had the idea of delineating three friendships between "modern" writers, which he thinks played a vital - or at least dominating - part in the last of their work.

The chosen pairs are Byron and Shelley, Verlaine and Rimbaud, Frost and Edward Thomas - and if you can't see much that they have in common you would be right. Mr. Lehmann (treacherous friendship is a little story in itself, attempting no illuminating com-

parisons or contrasts across his chapter divisions, and offering no philosophy about poetic friendship that might be tested by reference to say Wordsworth and Coleridge, Clough and Arnold, Eliot and Pound.

In a similar, inquisitive way he makes few probes into the particular instances that he has chosen. His account is heavily biographical (large chunks of Trelawny are quoted in the Byron/Shelley bit; we rush confusingly round France and England with those intense Frenchmen) and although Mr. Lehmann is clearly sympathetic to the masterpieces that were encouraged by the relationships, the tone of his disquisitions nowhere matches the potential of his theme.

Brian Alderson

Seeking the common miracle

Pure mystical verse would, I suppose, consist of little more than the opening of the Isidore Eskimo shaman Ana's first spirit song: "Joy, joy, joy, joy! Ana's (old) Kuna: Rana, Rana, Rana, Rana! I would keep on repeating, until I burst into tears, overwhelmed by a great dread; then I would tremble all over, crying: 'Ah-a-a-a, joy, joy, joy! Now I will go home, joy, joy, joy!'"

Nothing in J M Cohen's *Rider Book of Mystical Verse* (Hutchinson £8.95 and £5.95) comes as close to extending itself as this. The journey from, as Atar puts it in "The Part of Birds", "Seeking into Being", is a long and hard one. The essential drift of most of these poems is the need to conquer desire, to prevent "the expense of spirit in a waste of shame". As Blake puts it, "The Sexes spring from Shame and Pride". Though "some weigh their pleasure by their lust", writes Sir Edmund Dyer, "all the senses that find / To id maintain a quietude". Not many poets have the supreme self-satisfaction the religious of most of Cohen's poets is, like Donne, to translate their carnal energies into spiritual terms. The result is a fascinating book with a centre of troubled eroticism. Cohen's choices illuminate both the variety and the unity of the great religious traditions on which the "holy" draws: his own translations from the Spanish are particularly welcome.

Many readers will perhaps share the distrust voiced by Gavin Ewart. Julian Symonds's varied and enjoyable Arts Council anthology *New Poetry 9* (Hutchinson £7.95) of the "numb-jumbo" or "mystic stanzas, stanzas shouts". No area of writing to encourage vacuous posturing. Yet as Cohen's anthology proves, true being comes only from true seeking, and that entails looking very hard at the world we live in, and seeking illumination not as a special dispensation but as a special dispensation. In Richard Brome's phrase, "Only the common miracle". Brome's triumphant *Abse* (Avalon Press 1978) is a man too busy meditating on places he saw elsewhere

Black Light: poems in memory of George Sefaris (Loa Poetry Press £1.30) focuses intently on the imagery accruing round the notion of "darkness within light" throughout Sefaris's work, especially in *The Thrush*. The result is a homage to Sefaris which also has independent life, as the intricate record of the poet's attempt to follow the advice "Construct your world out of daylight".

Interviewed in *The Poetry of Dennis Abse: Critical Essays and Reminiscences* (edited by Joseph Cohen, Robinson Books £8.95), Abse relates a curious anecdote relevant here: "One afternoon I was walking with Ted Hughes and the Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai, in Jerusalem not far from the mosque, the Dome of the Rock. Suddenly without warning, Ted deliberately flung himself on to the ground. He lay horizontal, all six feet of him, his arms outstretched, face down, as he stared through a grille into blackness. And he groaned softly, 'Blackness, blackness.' He was just assing around, but it seemed to me almost - for he was so intense - as if he was trying to summon blackness up through that hole. At last he rose and noticed, on his hands, the marks the iron grille had made. He held them up to the light - for on his hands were the sign of the stigma."

Both Abse's admiration and his scepticism of Hughes here are central to his poetic stance, a stance explored most successfully in his later over-generous celebratory volume by Jeremy Hooker, in his essay "Poet of an Uncommon Reality". Hooker comes closest to what many of the contributors attempt, an understanding of the symbiosis between Abse the poet and Abse the doctor. As Abse himself puts it, "I'm not two people."

Another contributor to the Abse book, Alan Brownjohn, has recently published his own *Collected Poems 1952-83* (Secker & Warburg £8.95). Like Abse, he tempests compassion with irony. Brownjohn is a man too busy meditating on what he calls "the

lore of being a sexed creature" to seek mystical oblivion. His work is approachable, attractive, enjoyable, unambitious.

Michael Schmidt's anthology *Some Contemporary Poets of Britain and Ireland* (Corgi Press £9.95 and £4.50) is a straightforward rival to the Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry (Penguin £2.25), and though he pours scorn on Morrison and Moton's introduction to that book, his choices are similar: Seapham, Harrison, Mahon, Wainwright, Fenton, Paulin and Moton are common to both anthologies. Schmidt does find welcome room, though, for the deeply felt response to landscape of Jeremy Hooker and Gillian Clarke. In general, the poetry he chooses is intelligent in passion and simplicity. His own work, in *Choosing a Guest* and *Selected Poems* (Anvil Press Poetry £5.95) is similarly married, though it powerfully shows a genuine religious sensibility struggling to order a random world.

A poem translated and adapted by Abse from the Hebrew of Amir Gilboa demonstrates both why the poet's task, to purify the language of the tribe, increases in importance as we move from the age of double-speak, and by comparison, how the sophisticated literary self-consciousness of so many of our contemporary poets makes them evade the reality they seek to confront.

They held up a stone.
I said, "Stone."
Smiling they said, "Stone."
They showed me a tree.
I said, "Tree."
Smiling they said, "Tree."
They shed a man's blood.
I said, "Blood."
Smiling they said, "Blood."
They shed a man's blood.
I said, "Blood."
Smiling they said, "Blood."

Nell Philip

Classic facts

The Greek World 479-323 BC. By Simon Hornblower.
Methuen £5.95. 0 416 75000 1.
Oxford Readings in Greek Tragedy. Edited by E. V. Rieu.
Oxford £7.95. 0 19 872110 2.
Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy. By J. M. Moore.
Clarendon £12.95. 0 7101 2703 1.
Plato. By J. C. B. Gosling.
Routledge & Kegan Paul £4.95. 0 7102 0018 8.
Suetonius. By Andrew Wallace-Hadrill.
Duckworth £19.50. 0 7156 1747 8.
Josephus. By Tessa Rajak.
Duckworth £19.50. 0 7156 1502 5.
Three Archaisms. By Anne Pippin Burnett.
Duckworth £24.00. 0 7156 1693 3.

Classics teachers, one supposes, are on the whole a relatively highly qualified, enthusiastic and committed segment of the profession. At university they have eagerly pursued new trends in scholarship, read up the latest articles in learned journals, laid down hard cash for ground-breaking editions of familiar texts (and no less significantly) hero-worshipped a Fraenkel or a Page, a Diggle or a Dawe. But do they keep up with developments in their subject in later years? One begs leave to doubt it. And this in spite of the fact that (as I, at least, am convinced) better work is being done in the field today than ever before, and that issues which even in school curricula are being reassessed in ways which it is dangerous to ignore.

In Greek history, for example, we have never been short of "annalistic" works (like Bury and Meiggs) which record the events of each year, or of monumental, rhetorical histories which tie these facts together into a mosaic, the theme of which purports to be something like "the greatness of Pericles Athens". Where real progress has been made in recent years, on the other hand, is in the area of historical criticism. This has had two main effects: first, to clear away a mass of received ideas which were not the better for having been parroted generation after generation (and what teacher can with a clear conscience inculcate "facts" which are not and have never been facts?); second, to make the subject more vital, since the mind delights much less in assimilating facts than in finding or forging links between them.

Let us therefore open up our bookshelves and find room in them for Simon Hornblower's *The Greek World 479-323 BC*, a marvellously compact and reasonably-priced book which will nevertheless provide conscientious readers with food for thought for years to come. It is nothing if not up-to-date - so much so that would be worth having for its bibliographies alone - treating fourth century history as all of

a piece with fifth, Corinth and Cyrene as no less elements in the Greek world than Athens and Sparta, epigraphy and numismatics as essential supplements to formal historiography; and (caveat emptor) treating the reader as being as clear-headed and well-informed as the author is himself.

It is unlikely that the reader of Hornblower's book will have been able to consult P. J. Rhodes' very expensive commentary on Aristotle's *Athenian Politeia*; luckily, J. M. Moore, in his new edition of *Aristotle and Xenophon on Democracy and Oligarchy*, which consists of translations of and commentaries on all the ancient *politeiai* (namely those of Aristotle, Xenophon, the "Old Oligarch" and the Oxyrhynchus historian), has done, thus making his book even more useful to teachers, particularly of classical civilization, than before.

Some of the best work on Greek tragedy tends to be published in learned journals, and there will always be a ready market for books which, like *Oxford Readings in Greek Tragedy*, collect the best of these in an accessible form. There are many familiar pieces in Segal's anthology, including chapters on the well-known books of Whitman, Conacher and Taplin. One might pick out Lloyd-Jones on "The Guilt of Agamemnon", Easterling on "Character in Sophocles", Dodds on the *Oedipus Rex* and Schlesinger on the *Medea* as being the most obviously useful; some others are disappointingly feeble.

Plato, by J. C. B. Gosling, is a beautiful, substantial and remarkably expensive book which can be recommended to anyone interested in the argument (especially of Book I) of the *Republic*, not on a purely scholarly level, nor yet as an inadequate adumbration of modern Anglo-American philosophy, but as a serious attempt to answer a real moral question.

One does not often have an opportunity to teach Suetonius, Josephus or the poetry of Archilochus, Alcaeus and Sappho, but one must still pay homage to Duckworth for continuing to publish books of this excellence in a way on which no one else will match. Those on the two historians are accessible to non-classicists, and their examination of their lives, the societies in which they lived them, and the influence these had on their works makes fascinating reading even for novices in these fields.

Anne Pippin Burnett deals with all the major fragments of her *Three Archaisms*; her commentary on them is eloquent and informative, it sometimes fanciful and over-zealous, and on some pieces from the Colossus of Archilochus especially useful because unique.

Keith McCulloch

Behind the lines

The Government and Politics of France (Second Edition). By Vincent Wright.
Hutchinson University Library £5.95.
09 152 2714.
Governing France, the One and Indivisible Republic (Second Edition). By J. E. Hayward.
Weidenfeld and Nicolson £16.50 & £7.95 297 78235 5. 78243 6.

Just as the world divides into those who believe they are looking at a glass which is half empty and those who see it as half full, so observers of French politics divide into the pessimists who see its government and constitution as inherently fragile, and the optimists who believe in the essential robustness of a society which lives at closer quarters with conflict than those of us more used to what Wright calls "the obsessive and stultifying search for consensus which characterizes executive government in Great Britain".

If the French Left continues to lose support, the fragility-robustness ratio could well be put to the test. The constitution of the Fifth Republic is ambiguous about where sovereign power would lie if the president and the national assembly were drawn from different sides of the political

The present context gives an added topicality to these two books on the government and politics of France, the original editions of which have been well-thumbed by tutors and students in recent years. The new editions, carrying the story up to the first months of left-wing government can confidently expect the same sort of treatment.

Wright, concentrating on the Fifth Republic, offers empirical observation of France in the best sense. He has a sharp eye for day to day change and a conviction that there is an untidy reality which ought not to be lost sight of, whatever the temptation to follow the French lead and theorize. At the same time he produces a masterly synthesis of the different strands in academic and political debate. It is a book to be recommended to anyone wanting to see behind the headlines on French government and politics.

Jack Hayward takes a longer historical sweep and a more literary and sociological look at French politics and administration, which brings him to the conclusion that the left's victory has affected most areas of government. His book is more complex and more judgemental than Wright's: good for stimulating discussion.

Annie Corbett

BOOKS



"The Synagogue" by Max Beckmann (1919). From Dr Wolf-Dieter Dube's authoritative, superbly illustrated but shockingly expensive history of an original and important twentieth century art movement - Expressionism and Expressionism (Skira Macmillan £65.00).

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Staying power

Magie in Ravenswood. By Nigel Osner Heinemann £5.95. 0 907179 20 7.
The Oogopog. By Harry Horse. Macdonald £4.50. 0 353 3016 4.
The Clever Princess. By Diana Cates Sheels. Feminist Publishers £2.50. 0 907179 20 7.
The Starbuggy. By Brian Ball. Heinemann £5.95. 434 92 832 1.

Surely we may hope that authors of children's books will take as much care over the actual process of creation as they would when facing the different problems of writing for adults? There is the double difficulty of writing a book which will interest the child and also the parent who must borrow or buy it. And what they write must have enough staying power and quality to compete with television.

How do these four authors measure up? Well, good marks for *Magie in Ravenswood*, the story of young Prince Tristan rescued from a goblin takeover by Theodosius, the not totally

wise owl, an inefficient but friendly witch and a feather-brained - yes! - pigeon. The aristocratic cat is also on his side, but prefers a certain aloofness from anything disagreeable. All the characters are well-defined, the ravens of the wood being a nasty, tough crowd. There is enough irony in the writing to give it strength to deal with a traditional situation without going soft and silly. But I do think we might have some small clue on the whereabouts of Tristan's parents. Surely Percival pigeon could have been sent off to report?

I am cross with Harry Horse who does such excellent illustrations but has no real story except for some unstructured magic island trotting and ocean crossing. There is an improbable conflict between all the animals he picks up, including Nettle and the Oogopog of his title, and "the scientist" who are accused of irritating poor old Nettle. Surely Harry Horse knows full well that it is not scientists but gadget owners, and above all the media in one shape or another, who are the real menace in Loch Ness? This story shows a lack of respect for its audience, and I am sure that it is not intended. So come on, think up a better story to go with your next

pictures; you can do it easily! *The Clever Princess* is quite a good turning upside-down of the traditional fairy tale of the errant Prince (or, for that matter, woodcutter's son). But the feminist propaganda does show through and I have a bad feeling that it may have a backlash. However, the story of the princess who turns down all the suitors and overcomes all the usual magic problems is engaging, the meals brought in to her dungeon by a faithful hench-woman are the right kind, and there is nice detail in the pictures.

And now, what about Brian Ball and his space-buggy? He is an OK science fiction writer and could, I am sure, write a genuine SF book for children which has some base scientific reality. But instead he has written a bang-bang-whoosh story with Space Lords and Belly-bug bandits. In this context it is merely irritating when a little bit of real science crops up, bumps against the awful jokes and vanishes. No doubt it might be turned into the script of an acceptable telly-show, but as a written narrative it just doesn't do. Take your job as writer for children more seriously, Brian!

Naomi Mitchison

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John Coyle

Nuts and bolts English

Words. By Geoffrey Summerfield and Richard Andrews. Cassell. Book 1 (0 304 30943 5), Book 2 (30962 1), Book 3 (30963 1), £3.95 each (cased), £2.95 (himp). Teacher's Book 1 (30964 8), Teacher's Book 2 (30965 6), Teacher's Book 3 (30966 4), £1.95 each. Using Words Well. By Redvers Brandling. Edward Arnold £1.95, 0 7131 0816 9. Would You Believe It? By Redvers Brandling. Edward Arnold £1.95, 0 7131 0845 2. Reading With Understanding. By John Seely. Oxford University Press. Book 1 (0 19 831140 0), Book 2 (831141 9), Book 3 (831142 7), £1.95 each. Teacher's Book (831149 4), £1.50. Case Study Comprehension. By Patrick Scott. Harrow £1.95, 0 245 53899 2. Questions For Society. By Peter Mullen and Martin Pitts. Edward Arnold £1.75, 0 7131 0860 6.

And still they come. Just single copies of the current crop of secondary English language courses, an assorted pile of text, case, work and accompanying teacher's books would bite £26.20 out of capitation. Despite a recession in the educational publishing industry and the mini-textbook, go-it-alone prejudices of many classroom English teachers, there is no shortage of new material. Most comes in the form of slim, one-off volumes designed to plug a specific gap – a reflection perhaps of the strained circumstances in which many publishers find themselves. Ironically, however, the really original offerings seem to be proffered in the direction of that individualist, anti-textbook lobby.

Thrown, a set of Cassell's new course Words would stun a bullock. Even as paperback books are never far away – the size of a colour magazine and three times as thick – and unexpectedly heavy. Bow English teachers will be tempted to throw them though. They are far too valuable for that. To use that overworked word, they are resources rather than mere books.

archives to delve into, treasuries to trawl through more than texts to slave through.

Like co-author Geoffrey Summerfield's previous collection *Voices*, the three volumes which make up *Words*, broadly designed to span the years between starting secondary school and adolescence, contain a variety of stimulus material. There are pictures, riddles, puns (that sketch from *The Two Ronnies* which has Corbett asking "F.U.N.E.X.T?" and Barker replying "S.V.F.X.T.") as well as poems and extracts, generally from little-known but very suitable sources. The aim, outlined in a clear introduction in *Teacher's Book 1* is to get children talking (and later writing): to persuade them that they too have something valuable to say. *Voices*, when it first appeared stood English teaching on its head for a generation of teachers (this reviewer included). Though not so immediately attractive as books, *Words* could well provoke another bout of healthy disorientation.

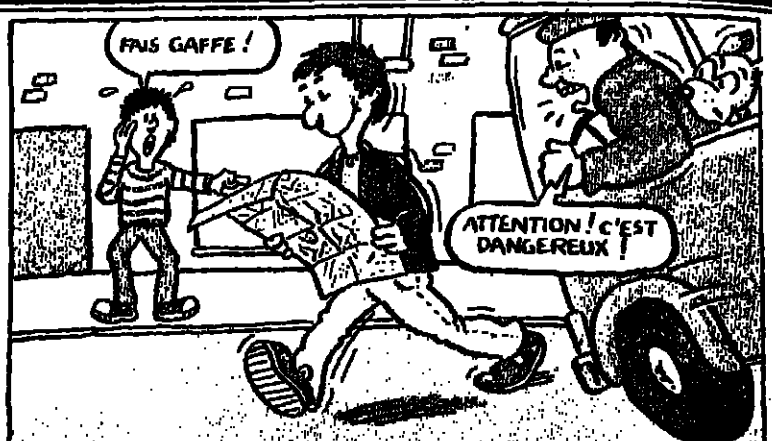
Using *Words Well* and *Would You Believe It?* are both intended for the lower end of the secondary school. The former has a lively format and uses diagrams, puzzles, games and occasional short extracts to explore the nuances of language and provoke thought. Hardly a new concept, but it is clear and well-suited to its task. *Would You Believe It?* is an introduction to comprehension, sneaking it in all unawares under the guise of discussion. The passages are rewritten news paper articles, clipped for it later, which the sports and crime pages together with a lot of what used to be called "human interest" stories. Fascinating and incredibly though they might be ("Saved By A Shoe"), the book's double-page format ensures that their follow-up questions (full sentence and one-word answers, together with a few opportunities for general writing) are never far away. They hang like threatened demonstrations at the end of every story, turning something intriguing like the piece entitled "Like Eating Cars" into just another exercise in belief that English is a language for life.

John Seely's three-volume comprehension course *Reading With Understanding*, designed like *Words* for the first years of the secondary school. Choose it if a thorough, up-to-date comprehension course is required. The questions are skilfully constructed – forget about full sentence answers too; in *Reading With Understanding* it's close passages, sequencing and prediction exercises all the way – though pupils could be forgiven for not finding the books the most exciting educational innovation since dustless chalk.

Lastly, a couple of one-offs born out of the subversive notion that, even when it comes to comprehension, English is not only about books (the dreaded Eng Lit) but also about life. *Case Study Comprehension* attempts to pull the sociological wool over the eyes of 16-plus and O level comprehension classes by presenting for analysis not passages but dossiers of documents, letters, reports and photographs. It wins too. Topics like Racial Discrimination, Children in Care and Unemployment are almost guaranteed to elicit more enthusiastic responses than the usual couple of pages, lines numbered in the margin, from *A Pattern of Islands*. The questions are also more up to date, asking for reports and summaries rather than single-sentence answers – a useful introduction to the skills required for O level Directed Writing.

Questions For Society goes even further. There are no dossiers, let alone passages, just nine picture-strips designed to open up discussion on some of the most contentious issues of our time. Should we ban the Bomb? Should severely handicapped babies be allowed to die? Is there a justification for terrorism? Each strip is followed by detailed suggestions for classroom work which will interest the English teacher in that they rehearse reporting and letter-writing skills but which would be equally useful for General Studies or RE teachers. There can be seen few more direct applications of Bullock's belief that English is a language for life.

Hugh David



Jenny Smith's *Visit to France* (Heinemann Educational, £1.95) would be a useful aid cum workbook for young travellers. Common sentences, information about money, food and getting about run side by side with suggested written activities.

Stripping masks

Methuen's Twentieth Century Texts: *Démocratie française* by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. Edited by Alan Clark. 0 423 51030 4. £3.50. Nouvelle histoire de Mouchette by Georges Bernanos. Edited by Blandine Stefanson. 90120 6. £2.50. *Destins* by François Mauriac. Edited by C. B. Thomson-Smith. £1130 0. £2.75. *Le Balcon* by Jean Genet. Edited by David Walker. 50980 2. £2.95. Anthologie Eluard. Edited by Clive Scott. 50880 6. £2.95.

Students of modern languages need to study non-literary texts and become familiar with the language of political and discursive writing, so Methuen are to be congratulated on bringing out Giscard d'Estaing's essay in an edition with helpful notes and a sensible introduction. The problem is that writing about contemporary events is inevitably overtaken by them, so that the most recent of these five books is also the most dated.

Admittedly, its author might dispute that: the President was addressing himself to the France of the third millennium and is still young enough to expect that a change in the political scene might make his views once more a matter of immediate concern. But his optimism, especially in the economic field, seemed excessive even when the book was first published in 1976. Its enduring interest is in the expression of a blandness of outlook characteristic of the Fifth Republic, a regime structured to favour his style of non-antagonistic politics with its emphasis on technocratic efficiency and a patronizing attitude to conflicting ideologies ("le marxisme a apporté sa part de vérité..."). The key words in the Giscardian vocabulary are *pluralisme, tolérance et modération* and once we have agreed with him on the desirability of those, then we can bludge him as we like about the rest, as long as we leave him to get on with the job.

This centre-right version of democracy is a long way from the traditional French Right. Even under the heading of education, Giscard avoids any direct reference to religion, his managerial style of government having understood that Catholicism inclines towards a pessimistic view of human affairs and is too divisive to supervise a "pluralist" society where even Marxism must be allowed its historical contribution to the national genius, however irrelevant it may be to the

present technocracy. The Left found Giscard irritating; Bernanos would have spewed on him with an intensity well beyond the range of *Démocratie française*. The results, if one was to offer his polemical writings as a model, might not please the A level examiners and the Nouvelle histoire de Mouchette is a more enduring expression of his idiosyncratic outlook. Literature does have a longer shelf-life than most similar products.

A pervasive sense of sin also dominates the work of Mauriac, though neither writer is orthodox in his approach to Christian dogma. Mauriac's short novels are written in a more imitable style and they are more accessible and rather less depressing for the average student than Bernanos. *Destins*, like *Mouchette*, evokes a Catholic and provincial France outside (perhaps beneath) the gaze of Giscardian common-market sense and the introductions, by Blandine Stefanson and C. B. Thomson-Smith, deal with such themes as Bernanos' style and the influence on Mauriac of silent cinema.

One can hardly imagine any state, however pluralistic and tolerant, that would encompass Jean Genet: he is far too adept at stripping the masks from authority figures. Come on, Giscard, anarchism has also made its contribution to the national spirit and in no small way, either. *Le Balcon* is a marvellous drama and probably better in performance than on the page; but I am not sure if, for most readers, that will justify David Walker's copious notes on performance details and textual variants. There is, however, a nice paradox in the idea of making an authoritative edition of Genet's work. There must be a risk in publishing Genet, who is unlikely to make the A level syllabus, and we can be grateful to Methuen for this and for allowing the series to venture into poetry. After Prévert, Eluard, edited by Clive Scott with an introduction which is scholarly in the best sense, applying the prosodic theory of his *French Verse* to give real insight into the workings of Eluard's poetry. The reader who is foolish enough to be bored by metrics will, in any case, succumb to Eluard, the learner will find him accessible and the student of modern French learn as much here, and with more pleasure, than in the featureless generalities of *Démocratie française*.

Robin Buss

Maths armoury

16+ Maths. By J. Holderness. Casework Press £4.35, 946 183 03 1. Mathematics: The Basic Skills. By S. Llewellyn and A. Greer. Stanley Thorne £3.85, 85950 148 5. Mathematics. By R. P. F. Collins £4.95, 0 00 32200 10.

There are scores of books striving to help the average pupil cope with mathematics. Teachers who believe in constant practice and familiarization with the basics will find much helpful material in these additions to the armoury.

16+ Maths will serve a wide range of abilities. It is based on the core syllabus of the 16-plus paper used by the Joint Matriculation Board in conjunction with various CSE boards. There is the minimum of text, but many hundreds of exercises, provided through revision of fundamental work and an adequate introduction to

The volume from Stanley Thorne's worthy upholds the reputation of the publishers for pleasing presentation and of the authors for clear exposition. In this case of ways in which elementary mathematics is required in everyday life. What used to be termed social arithmetic (with wages and bills rates and "takes" measurement and travel among the staples) is well covered, and there is more besides.

Mr Porteus includes more text in his treatment, which he terms "a complete course for first examinations". The book represents a reasonably standard work for O level, but it includes not only such topics as sets, mappings and matrices, but also sections on statistics and flow charts and iteration. Moreover, computer programs are introduced throughout. These add interest and motivation for pupils who can run them for themselves, writes Mr Porteus, and do not do it right.

F W Kellaway

Contemporary conundrums

The 20th Century. By M N Duffy. Second edition. Basil Blackwell £2.95, 0 631 91910 4. A History of the 20th Century World. General Editor: C P Hilli International Affairs. By E G Rayner. £5.75, 0 7131 0678 6. Asia and Australasia. J K G Taylor. £3.40, 0 679 4. Russia and Eastern Europe. By P D Allan. £3.35, 0 680 8. Britain and Western Europe. By R D H Seaman. £3.45, 0 681 6. Edward Arnold.

The Russian Version of the Second World War. The History of the War as taught to Soviet Schoolchildren. Edited by Graham Lyons. Facts on File, Inc £7.00 (from 19 Baitdown Road, London N3 1UX) 0 8196 136 9.

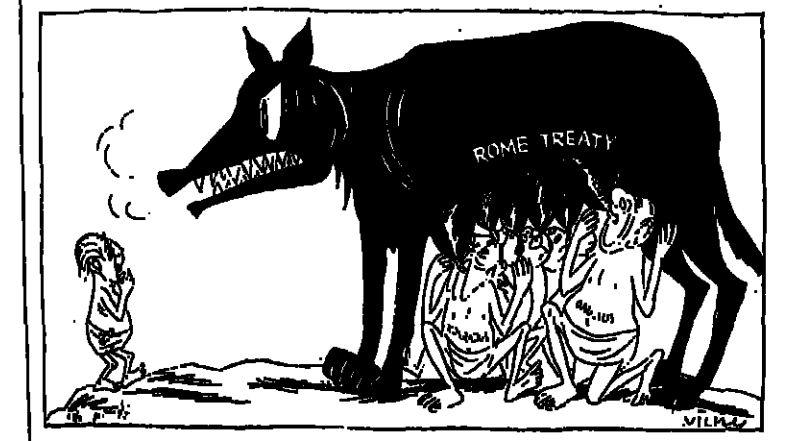
There was a time, not very long ago, when respectable history ended in 1914. Or 1939. Well, anyway, 30-odd years before you tried teaching it, to allow for sifting and digestion. Moreover, since everything that mattered happened at Westminster, Paris or Berlin (or reflected what happened there), issues were simple and history was neatly coherent.

That, of course, is out. Nowadays contemporary history is the O level fashion, with anything from the day before yesterday under suspicion of gross irrelevance. Twentieth-century history is a growth industry; and there's the rub. There is already far too much of it, and more being added daily. What's more, any neglect of the domestic problems of Burundi or

Brunei lands you in trouble on a charge of parochial Eurocentrism.

So textbooks cram masses of facts between bulging covers. Some, as in *A History of the 20th Century World*, seek the answer in a series, core volume with specialist supplements. Even so, the books get fatter and the facts are fighting for elbow-room. But M N Duffy's version of *The 20th Century* has some of the grace and space of an older generation. Back in 1964 it offered a good civilized read, with drawings, maps, diagrams and glossy photos, all between boards for thirteen-and-six. It retains most of its attractions in re-written, updated, paperbacked and re-priced form. Newspaper-grey photos replace plates and drawings, and assorted goblets grafiti current taste for sources and evidence, but the narrative remains readable and sensible, and the maps and diagrams are better than ever. The post-1945 story is shortened, little over a third of the book; and it reflects instability and incoherence, the lack of clear directions and landmarks, the constant need to re-focus on new, remoter trouble-centres.

C P Hill offers bulk rather than narrative. His core volume on *International Affairs* holds the series together well, while three area surveys (two more to come) concentrate on domestic matters. There is some overlap, even contradiction (as in rival maps of Brest-Litovsk), but the editing is assured and the massed information is presented clearly, earnestly and effectively. R D H Seaman's is the most straightforward task for this is Europe's familiar and relatively simple story competently re-told. P D Allan



A Vicky cartoon from 1962 when the answer to Britain's requests to join the EEC was always "No". It appears in *An Illustrated History of Modern Britain 1783-1980* by Richards and Hunt (Longman £4.95 third, updated, edition).

Snakes and Ladders

Food for Beginners. By Susan George. Illustrated by Nigel Paige. A Writers and Readers Documentary Comic Book £2.50, 0 906495 85 7. World Resources Food. By E M Gale and J D Poxon. Wheaton 0 08 026423 9.

Hurray's World Topic Geography with Agriculture and Rural Development. By Brian Greasley and Michael Younger. £2.95, 0 245 53708 2. Patterns of Development series: Population and Food Resources in the Developing World. By Gillian Price. Edward Arnold £2.35, 0 7131 0454 6. India Resources and Development. By B L C Johnson. Heinemann Educational £12.00, 0 435 3491 4.

"Are you upset? We hope so. If you don't feel like going out and taking a swing at someone or something, then this book is, frankly, a failure." This unusual approach to book evaluation begins the concluding chapter of Susan George's huge swipe at the transnational food companies, Uncle Sam, colonialism, Third World dictators, and others who stand accused of exploiting the countries of the developing world.

While there is a strong case for trying to arouse the reader on the subject of food resources and agricultural development in the Third World, I doubt whether *Food for Beginners* will prove a suitable vehicle for this purpose, with lower forms at the primary school level. This is not so much because of the lack of balance (not a fault in the context) but because the handwriting and very wordy cartoon, panelled goblets of text and general style make the book difficult for the beginner to read.

By contrast, E M Gale and J D Poxon approach the same subject with a more subtle, in *World Resources Food* and treat the multinational food companies with more respect. This is a well-meaning but rather dull text, which will adequately provide the academic basis for a straightforward

CSE or O level course on food-producing systems and changing patterns of development. Good diagrams, maps and black-and-white photographs help to illustrate and amplify the text, but I doubt if any pupil will feel sufficiently stimulated by this material to want to take "a swing at someone or something".

Messrs Greasley and Younger, on the other hand, make a more determined effort to vary the presentation of facts and opinions. Their methods in *Agriculture and Rural Development* are on rather similar lines to those to be found in Gillian Price's *Population and Food Resources in the Developing World*. Both books are aimed at pupils of 14 to 16 years, both are 64 pages in length, and both make successful use of quotations, statistics, models, simulation exercises, diagrams, graphs, maps, picture strips and black-and-white photographs.

Gillian Price ends her book with the "road to development game" a grid of 48 squares which leans heavily on *Snakes and Ladders*. "Entertainment" can also be pursued on pages 48-49 of *Agriculture and Rural Development* with rather more complicated rules. Choice between the two will depend on slight differences in subject matter, since Greasley and Younger are not concerned exclusively with the developing world, and with marginal differences in the illustrations and level of text. Both are welcome additions to the materials available for use with examination for the primary school level.

A similar welcome can be accorded to the second edition of Professor Johnson's comprehensive study of the world's most important Third World nation. This incorporates 1981 Census statistics and the latest figures for agricultural and industrial production. *India Resources and Development* is a major academic work, yet the style, presentation and excellent illustrations, make it also suitable as a reference work for any Third World resources pack.

Philip Sauvain

Xon-xoff

Connecting Computers to Peripherals. By Michael Thorne. Longman micro guides series. £2.95, 0 582 39672 7.

There is a great need for a guide to help the layman through the jungle of inadequate standards obscuring what should have been a comparatively simple task: connecting computers to printers, plotters and other peripherals that make them worth their keep. If the reader is not to be left tantalizingly short of his goal, it is essential for such a guide to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Michael Thorne's chief sin is one of omission rather than commission; although some of the information presented in *Connecting Computers to Peripherals* is misleading. It is the information which is not presented at all which strews the path of the unwary novice with pitfalls.

Essentially, the author has leant a little too heavily on his own personal experience, at the expense of the depth required for a truly authoritative work. Cold comfort for the reader desperately seeking explanation of the "XON-XOFF protocol" referred to by his printed manual.

The pace of the book is somewhat variable; what probably works very well as a lecture style too often seems annoyingly flippant when transcribed into print. Several well presented tables considerably enhance the value of the book as a reference work, although some space for the reader to fill in the results of his own experience would have been very welcome. All in all, then, more a Rosetta stone than a French-English dictionary; those who could cope with it could probably cope without it.

Tom Corfe

Peter Hedland

Practical problems

Solving Real Problems with Mathematics Volume 1 £4.50, 0 902937 62 6. Volume 2 £7.50, 0 902937 64 2. Solving Real Problems with CSE Maths. £4.50, 0 902937 65 0. Cranfield Press.

The Spode Group, taking its name from a Staffordshire conference centre, Spode Priory, comprises teachers associated with mathematics in various types of institutions. Members have been, and continue to be, concerned with the relevance of their subject to the world into which their pupils and students are about to emerge. Currently they are preparing material for the 16 to 19 age group who are taking courses in vocational training, in schools or colleges or under MSC auspices.

Already, however, they have issued three volumes of "real" problems, with guidance on ways to devise and solve them and evaluate their merits. The first two, intended for O and A level classes, are now joined by a collection suitable for CSE courses. All have the same underlying philosophy. One member of the group, Professor David Burghes, formerly of Cranfield, now at Exeter, contributes an introduction to each volume. Among the points he stresses are the vital importance of an understanding of basic mathematical operations and the ability to apply them in a practical context. The vastly increased use of quantitative techniques in a great

range of disciplines means that pupils should gain a greater experience of the uses of mathematics and, at the same time, be convinced of its relevance by participating in real-life situations.

To this end, the two volumes concerned with O and A level work contain some three dozen case-studies. For each there is a statement of a problem of a nature that arises in day-to-day business, social or industrial life. Typical problems involve stock-control, industrial location, the payment of electricity bills or television rental, proportional representation, traffic control and optimization situations. Teaching notes and background information are accompanied by indications of possible solutions and, generally, of related problems. The intention, clearly, is that the concepts illustrated should be used by teachers as samples of the sort of material they might devise for their own classes.

A number of the problems involve sport-weight-lifting, the optimum place for goal-kicking in rugby, transfer fees for footballers, presumably to enhance interest or create motivation. Here again, there are opportunities for teachers (or indeed, their pupils) to compile other illustrative examples. The same techniques pervade the CSE volume. Here only basic arithmetic is normally involved, but as one note suggests, there is every opportunity for some creative thought on a real problem.

There are some unfortunate mis-

prints in this volume. Post Office regulations about parcels do not state that "the minimum weight allowed is 10kg", while on page 68 football league tables for season 1980-81 show the same teams simultaneously promoted from Division 3 and Division 4, with the top side of the latter termed Southern United.

Teachers will, of course, make the necessary amendments. It will also be advisable for them to use current prices and other statistics when presenting problems to their classes. This has special significance with CSE pupils, since one of the aims of the work is to instil confidence in handling mathematics. That confidence is strengthened if the numbers to be handled are recognizably those met when, say, buying a stamp, paying a bus fare, or calculating income tax.

As stimuli to enliven their work and to demonstrate the use and value of mathematics in everyday contexts, these volumes could hardly be bettered. They are not an end in themselves, but a splendid starting point for individual and collective investigation. Teachers encouraged to pursue these lines might be reminded that the Institute of Mathematics issues a journal *Teaching Mathematics and its Applications*, edited by Professor Burghes, which is packed with stimulating ideas. The IMA headquarters are at Warrior Square, Southend and that happens to be the correct name of the team promoted in 1981.

F W Kellaway

New beasts in biology

Microcomputers and School Biology. By Anthony and Helen Lewis. Pitman £2.95, 0 273 01903 1.

Lewis's text starts with an introductory chat about microcomputers, providing a short history, some explanation of the nature of the beast, followed by information about applications in computer assisted learning and administration. After this, the nitty gritty of the majority of species is devoted to fully documented BASIC programs which can be used directly in the classroom. Thus a range of relevant topics, like

classification, osmosis, Mendelian inheritance, food tests, bomb calorimetry and surface area/volume ratios, are covered, some with graphics. The chapter on administration contains programs for test scores, an inventory and a bubble sort. The phrase "fully documented" means, in this case, that apart from information about the aims and modes of operation of programs, there are sample runs, flow diagrams and definitions of variables, along with the program's listing, full explanations, suggested applications and changes. Where appropriate, master copies of students' worksheets are also included.

I have little doubt that *Microcomputers and School Biology* will be a

text of book which teachers and lecturers will welcome, though, regrettably, the computers seem to be moving faster than the publishers, so this text is relevant to older machines like the Genie, TRS 80, Pet and RML 3802. One can only hope the omission of the beloved Beeb. The last chapter does contain detailed explanations of relevant BASIC commands, with a portion on graphics and a table to help convert the listings between the various machines previously named, so BBC computerholics could use this as a starting point for program adaptations.

Peter J. Baron

Traditional chemistry

Complete A Level Chemistry. By Diana Kelly. University Tutorial Press £7.80, 7231 8556 0.

The use of "complete" in a title may reflect an author's cherished ambition, or their view of the subject matter, or both. In this case, the book is closed with defined boundaries. Aligned with "A level chemistry", it could encourage optimism in potential readers flitting under the load of the syllabus – it can all be contained in less than 500 pages after all. Since one of Diana Kelly's intentions is to provide a text for "those students unlikely to continue with chemistry as a major discipline", perhaps the implication is of a nicely rounded course which is

"complete" in itself – a worthy ambition indeed. Does the book succeed? The content coverage is comprehensive, and will meet the requirements of many A level syllabuses. The book is divided into six parts, the first three of which are on principles: theoretical, physical and chemical, so that physical chemistry occupies nearly half of the book. In several chapters, the approach is to state the theory first and then discuss the evidence, which may be helpful for those students who have difficulty seeing the wood for the plethora of trees. As well as the usual areas, there is an extensive treatment of phase equilibria and colligative properties, and the chapter on bonding includes sp-hybridization. On kinetics, integrated rate equations are derived

although collision theory is barely mentioned. There is a mistake, about the range of the pH scale, and a serious proof reading error occurs in the chapter on redox, where the oxidation numbers of the s-block elements are defined as negative. The use of both litres and cubic decimetres is an unfortunate confusion.

Inorganic chemistry comes in Part 4, on a group-per chapter basis. Explanations of group properties and trends in the periodic table are given, followed by notes on occurrence and exhaustive listings of the chemical properties of the more important elements and their compounds. The organic chemistry section is rather less detailed than the others and comparatively short, at about 100 pages. The chemical properties of the main functional groups are catalogued and a few important reaction mechanisms are outlined. The summary of simple synthetic routes is a useful crib for some examination questions. The brief final part is on applied chemistry: organic preparations, metal extractions and the heavy chemical industry, but there is no wider discussion of the social and technological implications of chemistry.

At the end of each chapter are several questions, mostly from examination books; chapter summaries would have been a valuable addition. The index is good and there is a helpful glossary of traditional names. The conventional layout of the book is well done; illustrations are limited to sectional diagrams of apparatus. The text style is concise and clear with large sections of the book reading like a well-written essay, but in places explanations are very brief and the meaning of some important terms is implied rather than clearly stated, necessitating careful reading.

For the more traditional syllabuses this is a very sound text. Students following Nuffield-based courses may, because of its approach and emphasis, find it more difficult to use effectively.

Lynne Marjoram

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At more and more people become involved with computers, their importance in education increases and more academic subjects involve their use. This means that rapidly increasing numbers of teachers need to know about the current developments.

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A reappraisal of priorities

Andrew Petherick on the changing secondary PE curriculum

Curriculum development in most sections of the educational system is a continuous process, and physical education in recent years has been no exception. Social and economic changes have caused a reappraisal of priority objectives, particularly in secondary education, in an attempt to prepare pupils for the changing challenges of present day living.

In the full knowledge that inactive lifestyles have become the malaise of modern society, greater emphasis is being placed on the promotion of physical fitness. Cognitive development which, according to J E Kane in the Schools Council Enquiry into Physical Education in Secondary Education (Macmillan), was a minor consideration in most physical educationists' order of priority in 1974, has become a major objective and, in many schools, is today taking its rightful place alongside motor skill development as an important aspiration. Teams of teachers working alongside advisers and lecturers have re-examined the unique contribution physical education has to offer in the education of each child.

The area of the curriculum where the greatest educational advance is being undertaken is within the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. The imparting of knowledge about the body in relation to movement has become an acceptable and socially relevant part of most physical education programmes. Today organic development is a justifiable expectation of our profession. With the cost of health care set for another dramatic increase over the coming year, the prevention of illness and the promotion of well being are also essential to the economic and social stability of the country. Health Related Exercise programmes, incorporating the practical with the theoretical, are being designed to include sound body mechanics through an understanding of routine and habitual actions. The avoidance of smoking, drugs and an excess of alcohol, the management of proper body weight, the setting of a balanced diet, the management of stress, are all being taught alongside the positive benefits of exercise and the experience of relaxation techniques. A sound knowledge of body mechanics can also enable pupils to develop a greater appreciation of movement, in all its forms. With the help of the Health Education Council's recent campaigns and the increase in the media's interest in personal health, the physical education profession is acquiring the support to promote lasting health habits for the future. Positive bodycare is now accepted as a major consideration of the profession's role in preparing pupils for an active and healthy lifestyle.

The profession continues to recognize the importance of motor skill acquisition, but with the development of community-based sports programmes under the overall control of the Sports Council, many traditional attitudes towards games teaching have been relinquished. The profession has accepted that school sports are not an end in themselves, and excellence today is being rechannelled to more appropriate avenues. Games teaching continues to be a central key of PE programmes, but today it is being seen in a wider context as a "tool" for all pupils to achieve fitness, self-satisfaction, skill development, personal education and pleasurable use of leisure time.



Since the 1981 Education Act, pupils with special needs have been integrated into many schools. Special provision is being made by the profession to ensure that mainstreaming of physical education programmes is being recognized by the profession. The recent initiatives of the Sports Council and the National Coaching Foundation combined with the work being achieved under the auspices of most National Governing Bodies of Sport have enabled barriers between down and common principals established for the benefit of the pupils.

Where community-based education and activities have developed for various age groups, often with the encouragement of headteachers and physical educationists, the educational needs of a varied and comprehensive commitment towards school fixtures is removed. The effects of a concentration of time and resources on open access clubs, plus the effects of a more knowledge-based programme proving beneficial to all pupils, is already being seen by increased participation in extra-curricular sessions. It must now be hoped that more school PE programmes will take a lead from the minority and extend the community integration beyond the school age, and programmes for the unemployed, housewives, executives and the aged, should become part of every physical educator's repertoire. Examinations in physical education continue to create much debate, but an increase in participation in CSE examinations has indicated that the syllabus is becoming more acceptable in many schools. Over the past year progress has been made with City and Guilds examination criteria and also,



three A level examination syllabuses have been submitted for consideration by the Associated Examining Board, and many physical educators, particularly in tertiary education, hope for the introduction of these courses during the next academic year. Further consideration of an O level examination is under way. As part of the profession's community awareness outlook, Sports Leadership awards, and various introductory coaching qualifications, are now run for the benefit of senior pupils in many schools.

Since the 1981 Education Act, pupils with special needs have been integrated into many schools. Special provision is being made by the profession to ensure that mainstreaming of physical education programmes is being recognized by the profession. The recent initiatives of the Sports Council and the National Coaching Foundation combined with the work being achieved under the auspices of most National Governing Bodies of Sport have enabled barriers between down and common principals established for the benefit of the pupils.

The teaching of physical education is becoming more humanized and individualized. The benefits of non-traditional activities such as jogging, weight-training and dance are causing these activities to become commonplace in many curricula. Rewarding and varied activities are being experienced through progressive and challenging programmes and most pupils are now able to realize the benefits of active, practical participation. One decade on from the Schools Council Enquiry into Physical Education and influenced by various DES curriculum documents, pupils are gradually being equipped with the knowledge, skill and experiences to take up the challenge of the leisure age. Physical education curricula are reflecting the changing needs of pupils in preparation for their more active and healthy lifestyle.

Andrew J Petherick is General Secretary of the Physical Education Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The health boom

by Paul Wapshott

At 7.15 every morning 34-year-old Winston Smith wakes himself from his bed, stands to attention in front of the television and engages in exhaustive compulsory physical jerks, exhorting to greater efforts by the alluring female instructor with the piercing voice.

This Orwellian Nineteen Eighty-Four and a far cry from reality, or is it? It is a chillingly uncanny tale with George Orwell's vision coinciding with the format accepted today on early morning television, even down to the female instructor. Of course, the very idea of compulsion fell out of

favour in the sixties, yet mass persuasion is now a subtle form of "hypnotism" from the media. There may be no state-sponsored compulsion in post-1960s life but the pressure is on individuals to embrace the current boom in health and fitness, which has steadily gained momentum and is all set to achieve a climax of Olympic fever at Los Angeles in the summer.

Private enterprise is exploiting the current trend and commercialism has resulted in the mushrooming of classed "work out" systems and lifestyles, most with a West Coast flavour which

leaves institutionalized PE seemingly the poor relation without a ticket for the bandwagon. The health and fitness syndrome has emerged like an all-embracing smog, engulfing each of the multifarious factions no matter how eccentric they may appear.

Yet, for all that, the forefathers of physical culture - Turner, John, Quits Muths, Archibald MacLaren and so on - would have great empathy with many of the diverse movements of today. Similarly, Katie Liederman, a leading American physical culturist and champion of the 1920s, would recognize and approve of much of the perhaps ill-fated revolution it could be said was waiting in 1948 there was concern about lack of moral fibre, today the concern is about lack of oral fibre.

So aerobics abound, the "burn" is a buzz word and junk food is out; but it is

not enough just to be fit and healthy, fashion dictates that one should also look the part. There can be no doubt that the vogue for health and fitness has reached unprecedented heights, but there is little in the "new" systems of philosophies that will surprise the PE specialists.

The real development has been in the packaging of the product, the creation of the image. Today society worships craving images - craving for health, beauty and youthfulness. The means to satisfy the craving, to mirror the image, is all part of the great leisure explosion, perhaps the only growth industry left.

This embraces not just public leisure centres or private clubs, facilities in which to do or become, but a myriad of assorted enterprises dealing with any item remotely linked to a leisure or

The myth and the dogma

Is there any education in PE?

by Jake Downey

There is no Sport in education. There is physical education but that is not the same as Sport even though it makes use of many sports (games, gymnastics, athletics, etc.). These, unfortunately, are not meant to take children inside sport as you might expect but rather to try to attain certain educational ends. Physical educators are in fact quite critical of sport because of the way they see sport developing under the influence of politics and professionalism.

Physical education the main aim is to educate children. This teachers try to do by using physical activities from sport (the chief source) and art (eg dance) as a means to educate the whole child. In addition PE teachers attempt to improve the fitness and health of children and prepare them for leisure.

Physical education is said to be a process whereby children are helped to develop physically, mentally (intellectually), socially, aesthetically and morally - all features of the whole person. "Physical education is Education". This is the myth that pervades the literature in physical education. It is dogma based on the misconception of dogma of PE theorists. The truth is that the theory does not hold up.

According to their myth the educational justification for physical education rests solely upon the successful use of sports as a means of achieving their educational ends. This is a burden the sports themselves cannot support. Consequently, their aims are not achieved and physical education loses its justification for being a part of education.

This theory fails for several reasons. In the first place, there is no conceptual connection between sports on the one hand and the alleged educational ends of physical education on the other. Such a dubious connection relies upon evidence that taking part in physical education results in the moral, aesthetic, social and intellectual development of children. There is no such evidence.

Secondly, to use sports to achieve such ends, even if it were possible, would demand PE teachers to be trained as moral and aesthetic educators, and as social and child psychologists. There is no such training.

Thirdly, PE activities are not activities of the sort that children must engage in for intellectual development to occur. True, children might have to



Is primary PE meeting the needs of the children?

think critically and imaginatively in physical education but it is a mistake to claim that all such thinking is necessarily intellectual.

Fourthly, if there were such moral, social and intellectual development we might expect the members of the physical education community to exemplify these qualities. They do not. Where were our social and moral consciences while primary school physical education has been allowed to become a national disgrace; and courses for secondary specialists to become more tailored to suit the demands of the CNAAs for academic respectability rather than the needs of children? What have the academics and politicians among us been doing whilst i.e. advisers and conscientious teachers have been fighting a losing battle in the schools to maintain children's interest and standards of performance? Why have our intellectual prowess not been used to provide rational argument to justify practical work in the schools? Why has the only rigorous examination of physical education been done by philosophers and social scientists, not physical educators?

It is because there is nothing in physical education which, in fact, contributes to the social, moral and intellectual aspects of our development and

that in these aspects we are, perhaps, lacking because of too much involvement in physical education and too little involvement in areas where they could be developed?

Physical education will remain open to these criticisms and fail to achieve its educational aims while it allows its practice to be guided by such a discredited theory. It is not surprising that among its practitioners there is a large measure of confusion and disagreement about what physical education means and what it ought to be doing. It could make an important contribution to children's education if we adopted a more realistic ideology; which at present we do not.

The main task of physical educators must be to initiate children into the "world of sport". Whatever else might be included in physical education, sports are a substantial part of it. It would be a simple step to teach these sports as sport for its own sake and for no other reason. I appreciate that sport might fail to satisfy some educators' criteria for what counts as an educational activity but, if this is so, those who have formulated criteria which rule out sport as part of education hold a concept of education which is unrelated to our social reality.

Whatever people might count as a realistic concept of education, it would consider persons lacking in their education if they cannot live fruitfully in the "world of sport." This implies doing sport for its essential human values and not for the sort of extrinsic ends that physical educators are sometimes critical of, ie status, prestige, power, wealth and nationalism; ends which can only be achieved from success in competition and where the value of winning can overshadow and negate the value of participation.

Most people take part in sport in the belief that it has much to do with enjoyment and enhancing the quality of their lives. We have created many interesting sports that challenge and test sports people and enable them to fulfil themselves in a variety of ways that working at a job solely to survive does not. That is why so many people value sport. That is why there are many like me who want their children to get to know sport from the inside and learn how to extend themselves and gain enjoyment and satisfaction from doing so.



Getting to know sport from the inside

Physical educators' narrow view of sport prevents them from seeing that it entails everything they aspire to. There may be no connection between engaging in sports and becoming moral but there is certainly a connection between being moral and engaging in sport. Unless people are moral and sociable it is unlikely that they will obtain satisfaction and enjoyment from their participation. Unless they are aesthetically aware it is unlikely that they will appreciate the beauty within sport. Sport is only of value to the participants if they look after the values in sport.

It is in this context that physical education can be so important in children's education. Not only should we be trying to initiate children in sport, we should also be the guardians of its values. We would not, for example, allow children to try to win in football by hacking down the opponents, not only because it is contrary to the rules of football but also because people just ought not to behave that way towards others in any social activity.

And if we teach properly it should not require a referee to make that point to the offender, his teammates should do so. It should be the task of PE teachers to ensure that children learn to participate for the right reasons and to care for and protect the values within sport.

Sport provides a principle of unity for most of the work in physical education. It could ensure continuity in physical education throughout the children's school life. It could link the theorists in sports studies with the practitioners in the schools. It could connect the work of teachers and coaches. Above all it could give meaning to what we are engaged in because it focuses our efforts onto teaching sport for its intrinsic values and enables us to do what we know best: to teach children how to extend themselves in sports, to care for their physical health and well being and to value and enjoy this aspect of their present and future lives.

Jake Downey was formerly senior lecturer at Heriots College of HE. He is an international badminton coach and author of several books on the sport.

The health boom

Continued

recreational activity - from fashion to books, helpalps to pedometers, all become accessories and necessities. . . . Whilst the large format workout books designed to be scattered on coffee tables, proving the purchaser has shed pounds, often a companion to expensive video cassettes - again the Orwellian telescreen. To these add a feast of diet paperbacks, well digested to fulfil silliness while ensuring no more lean times for the authors. They all form an integral part of the image, a statement of lifestyle, an indicator of status.

The major market target has been the female, perhaps to reflect the increasing importance and liberation of women, but more likely, though contradictory, because women are still considered vulnerable or gullible to the type that they need to look to their figures to their figures can be looked at.

An unkind comment maybe, but those in the business are living off the fat of the land. Diet propaganda has become a certain qualified exception, always been aimed at women and though still generally the case then too are now becoming increasingly conscious of selective eating.

Conversely, hard exercise has always had a macho image, but today the grunt and sweat approach is being refined and becoming acceptable for leotards and legwarmers. To retain or regain youthfulness, spirit willing, the flesh may be subject to the first overload since school days, and some would push the "burn" when perhaps a little "choulder" now they're older could suffice.

How many leotards lie languishing in dressing rooms, unused, until they are forgotten somewhere? The big battle



The "burn" is big business

lions of the fashion world mould the image, respond to a demand which they have helped to create, but remain mindful that fashion is ephemeral - a superficial manifestation of a phase society needs. Fashions must change, all booms must peak - but when? Those who watched the Super Bowl from first to last down are aware of just what an orgy of spectacle will be transmitted from across the Atlantic in the summer.

It may be that saturation coverage of the Olympics creates a natural winter-sad, that the public appetite will be sated, having already so much. Over exposure could result in a shift of attitudes, a demand for change, a different fashion, they end could be less - or perhaps a trimmer, fitter

boom will emerge. A boom for the purist, the best of the present health and fitness ethic without the decadence, the rip-offs, the charlatans.

The PE profession has so far retrained from leaping headlong into the bonanza, possibly because of the innate conservatism of the profession, and by so doing has preserved its integrity while allowing itself room to manoeuvre. There may, in some circles, be a hint of chagrin that the fitness boom has been successful in spite of, rather than because of, physical education.

PE cannot stand aloof from the mainstream of a health ethic which should lie close to the heart of each and every practitioner. There is much to applaud in the mass movement of an increasingly health orientated public.

Aerobics, now recognized as having a useful contribution to make to PE, looks likely to receive an endorsement from the Physical Education Association in the form of a teacher's diploma. This will be a major development in an area full of confusion and urgently in need of some form of authorized standard. A national qualification is essential, not for restrictive practice but for safety. Cars are maintained by mechanics, bodies by just about anyone willing to take a class.

There will be other developments and the crusade in one form or another is likely to attract many more to its cause yet. There is nothing wrong in striving to achieve longevity naturally, nor is it a sin to acquire the healthy habits of an enlightened lifestyle. Street values cannot be ignored but they can be harnessed, PE can use the motivation instilled by the cult and adapt any aspect of worth and still remain free from the taint of commercialism.

Paul Wapshott is a lecturer at Oswestry College.

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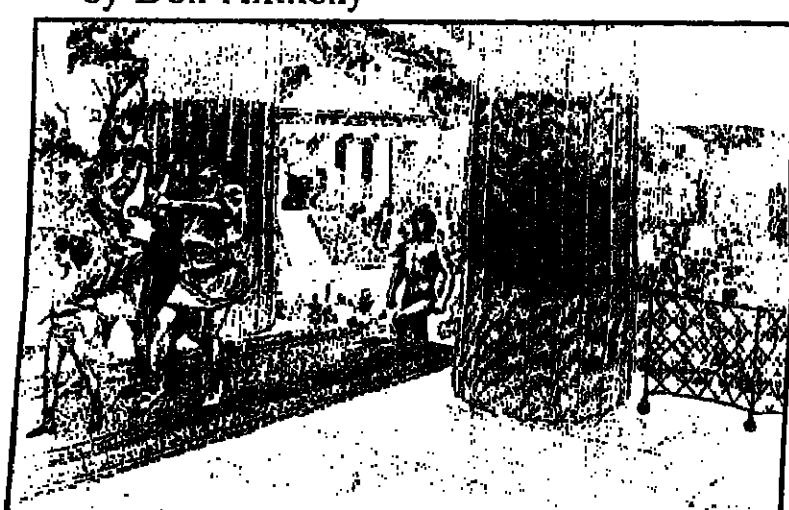
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Carrying the torch

The Olympic ideal
by Don Anthony

Ninety years ago, in June 1894, a conference took place in the Sorbonne - "to discuss and disseminate the true principles of amateur sport". It proved to be a momentous occasion; the modern international Olympic movement was born. This movement, maligned and misjudged, has stood the test of time. Every Olympic Games, including the first, in 1896, has been said - by its detractors - to be the last. Yet here we are in 1984 having just celebrated the most successful Winter Olympics yet and poised on the threshold of the Los Angeles Games in July. Seoul tries its hand four years hence - with Calgary during the winter; Barcelona, and several others, have said they will cast their lot into the ring for 1992. Athens has already built the stadium for 1996 - and who could deny them that century?



The victor entering the temple of Zeus. An engraving by A Castaigne made in 1896, the year of the first modern Olympic Games.

Ancient Olympian, but the "hierarchical" lobby won.

Coubertin was happy; the Games would stimulate the development of sport every four years in a different city of a different continent. Of the fifteen members of the first Committee, at least seven were committed educationists. Their commitment to the educational and social objectives of the revived Olympic movement is embodied in the "fundamental principles of the Olympic Charter" - to promote the development of youth, physical and moral qualities which are the basis of sport - to educate young people through sport in a spirit of better understanding between each other and of friendship, thereby helping to build a better and more peaceful world - to spread the Olympic principles throughout the world, thereby creating international goodwill - to bring together the athletes of the world in a great four-yearly sport festival - the Olympic Games.

The world at that time was not at ease. The French were still reeling from the Franco-Prussian war. The Austro-Hungarian empire was always bubbling with crises pointed out that no German was expected to the first committee - but one was appointed later by cooption. The Austrians were said to be concerned that they were not represented although a Hungarian and a Czech were. Coubertin was a diplomat and a pragmatist. He asked that "not too much should be expected of sport". Sport could not solve the problems of the world but it might make a small contribution to international understanding - if organized with skill and care.

He was also concerned that sport should be linked with festivals of art. In 1906 he was calling for programmes in architecture, dramatic art, choreography, decoration, letters, music, painting, and sculpture. In 1908 the organizers of London Olympics drew up "rules" for competitions in the arts. To late for London these rules were utilized for Stockholm in 1912. Ironically, the last time they were used was in London in 1948.

Subsequently exhibitions were substituted for competitions - and a certain spark went out of this aspect of the Olympic movement. In the last 36 years there have been - and there still are - voices calling for the reinstatement of art.

Prior to the Los Angeles Games there will be a six week "cultural festival" of film, art and theatre will be a major activity. The Royal Shakespeare Company will take part in this festival. After the Games in Los Angeles, the Olympic Association, 1 Church Row, Wandsworth, London SW18, is providing four scholarships for young people to attend the 24th annual session of the International Olympic Academy in Olympia, Greece, July 4-19. The study topic is "The Olympic Games in the past, the present, and the future". The BOA would also like to hear from any educationalists interested to attend a conference at Olympia June 23 to July 3 on "Olympism and education". In the summer the BOA will be launching a national children's painting competition, to run through the period of the Los Angeles Games. The best paintings will be sent to Switzerland, later in the year to form part of an international Olympic exhibition.

The groundsmen, God bless 'em!

By Paul Wapshott

That the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton is a quote attributed to the Duke of Wellington, and is perhaps one of the earliest references to the unsung contribution made by groundsmen. Unfortunately, attitudes to ground staff have shifted little, and they are still, all too often, regarded as mere labourers; troglodytes who emerge, clad in overalls and day-glo donkey jackets, from their neverworld lair that is festooned with rusty nets and buttressed by out of season goalposts, and has the lingering aroma of creosote, linseed oil and paint.

At one time, not so far distant, the games master was expected to share these quarters, to unpick his sandwiches and sip his tea cheek by jowl with the honourable artisan. PE has since clawed its way to full room status, no longer patronized or underestimated by more traditional disciplines; the groundman remains isolated, an outcast, an ancillary - he is not an academic. But the world of the groundsmen has undergone a quiet revolution.

Ground staff are specialists. There is a well-defined management structure which aims to provide an effective and efficient service which will satisfy the many diverse demands made upon it by, among others, the educational establishments. So ground maintenance has become centralized, a pooling of resources and manpower, resulting in greater investment in machinery and more rational deployment of forces.

Programmes of construction and maintenance must be planned many years in advance. Deadlines have to be met, whether the marking out of a rounders pitch or a major reclamation project. There has to be constant retraining and assimilation of new methods and techniques. The implications and use of synthetic materials must be examined. The grounds maintenance service must act for the best interests of one of the largest land-owning groups in the country - the local authorities.

Each grounds maintenance unit has an infra-structure. On site, are the ground staff actually carrying out the work; the much maligned creature at the sharp end, often taken for granted by teaching staff and abused by pupils. These men work under a foreman who carries the can for on-site problems. The foreman in turn is responsible to a supervisor who will oversee all the work required at a number of sites or a certain area. Organization demands paperwork, the collection and processing of which is done by white-collar technicians, many of whom will have come up through the ranks. Administrative and executive decisions are made by administrative and section and department officers. A career structure to parallel any in local government.

Add to these other esoteric experts and consultants, such as arboriculturist or landscape architect, and the complexity and magnitude of the grounds maintenance service is much more than the parochial groundman.

The budgets for such departments may at first glance appear enormous to the teacher who often wonders where the new set of strip will come from. Good housekeeping is essential, not just for the day to day running, but also to ensure that policy is attainable. Like all true men of the soil, proficiency is abhorrent and all finance judgments must be based on sound principles.

The ground staff on site must be self-reliant with every mechanical and chemical aspect of the job. Lack of knowledge could be fatal in an inherently dangerous occupation - yet it is a measure of the care and training that ground maintenance units have a safety record second to none. That the "lowly groundsmen" is no academic may be true, but the skillfully mastered geometrical problems involved in marking out a six lane 400 metres track from scratch - a job which not many graduates would willingly undertake. Repairing the ravages of the weather or vandals, all is tackled philosophically.

On all seasons the very paragon of the job means that often the only shelter is not a welcoming staffroom, or even a works' canteen, but perhaps an enlarged garden shed or the cab of a vehicle, among the chemicals and the line-marker, the fertilizer and the shovels. All this and more is borne stoically by those whose skill and industry ensures that the PE teacher has the facilities to do the job.

THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

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On the map

The Earth Today - Britain: Mapwork 1 and Mapwork 2
By Ruth Way. Filmstrip and handbook price £5.20; optional audiocassette price £2.50.
Visual Publications, 197 Kensington High Street, London W8 6BB.

Cartography is a language. Although at times maps may be valued almost as works of art, they are essentially a way of storing and sending messages about landscapes and other spatial patterns. Their success, therefore, is limited by the fluency with which map makers are able to construct their language and map users are able to read it, but while map-making skills have shown great progress in recent decades, map reading remains significantly underdeveloped.

Two new VP filmstrips offer considerable potential in this context. Though covering conventional ground, they do in many respects represent a genuine innovation of balance in respect of their insistence on the primary importance of repeated cross-reference between landscape and map. Both filmstrips go further than most class-based demonstrations to reinforce this task at a variety of scales and from a variety of viewpoints.

The author makes extremely positive use of the visual potential of the filmstrip medium. For example, the silhouette format is an ideal approach to visual comparison, offering numerous opportunities to relate landscape and simplified map, to connect an air photograph with its corresponding map, or to contrast maps at different scales. Similarly, the superimposition of annotated text or symbols on landscape photographs provides a subtle visual reinforcement of the feature/symbol link - the basic aim of the cartographic language.

Mapwork 1 deals with introductory aspects of scale, symbol, direction and position. These notions are presented through lively examples of actual map-using tasks, and between them cover a comprehensive but not exhaustive range of the components of the 1:50000 Ordnance Survey Map. The pace and detail of presentation attempt a generally successful compromise between the needs of the 10-14-year-old beginner and those of the O level group, dividing attention between simple sketch and actual OS extracts. It is possible on occasion to query whether the full potential of the presentation has been achieved, but the end-product remains a powerful and pleasurable introduction to maps.

Map 2 aims rather higher by covering the more complex topics of height, slope form and gradient before linking these properties to represent basic landforms. The sequential form of the filmstrip is used to good effect to build up complex concepts from simple components.

The examples used are again excellent and the conventions remain essentially those of the Ordnance Survey (though extending the valuable OS convention of labelling contours so that the figures are read facing up slope). Visual devices such as a diagram of a one-in-four gradient alongside the one-in-five map symbol, do little to detract from what is overwhelmingly an extremely imaginative and professional treatment.

M J Clark

Being able to perform investigations directly on the activity of the human heart is an attractive idea for many biology teachers, but the means by which such work can be carried out have not been available until relatively recently, nor do they come particularly cheaply.

All the equipment reviewed here boasts the small electrical voltages associated with contraction of the heart muscles so that they can be monitored in some way. Problems of safety always arise when experimenting on pupils and the design of the different instruments and their accompanying notes address themselves to these problems in various ways.

The Bio-Monitor is an American instrument, available here from Griffin and George. It is essentially a millivolt amplifier which is battery powered and so poses no physical hazards. The unit is compact and simple; apart from the power switch, there are no controls to adjust. Two metal electrode plates are supplied which are placed on the wrists and held in place by rubber straps. Connection is made to the two input terminals on the Bio-Monitor, and after a variable delay of 10-20 seconds, electrical heart activity is detected and signalled by the flashing of a light-emitting diode and "beeping" noises from a speaker within the unit. These signals are in time with the pulse rate.

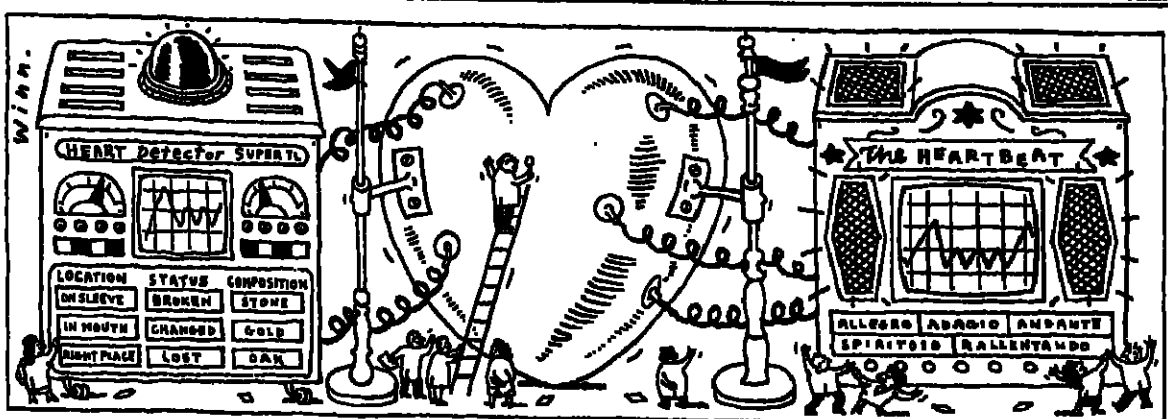
No problems were experienced with the Bio-Monitor which gave good results with a variety of subjects. The display of heart action is, however, rather limited and the Bio-Monitor is in effect little more than an up-market pulse meter. The documentation supplied with the equipment suggests a variety of activities, but it would be unwise to follow some of these as they involve suggestions for altering the heart rate by various means including the administration of caffeine and atropine.

The Unilab Biological Amplifier is a much more sophisticated instrument. Its design is such that it is entirely safe in use. It is battery powered and there are no electrical connections between the inputs and outputs, so should a fault develop in an attached oscilloscope, there is no risk of the body receiving any voltage via the intermediate amplifier. Safety considerations are stressed in the accompanying notes, including the dangers of student traces depicting emotional distress through the display of apparently unusual electrocardiogram (ECG) traces.

Input signals are fed into the left of the amplifier via three 4mm sockets. Electrode plates and rubber straps are attached to both wrists and one ankle for displaying an electrocardiogram, and are connected to the amplifier. Output from the amplifier is to an oscilloscope. After a short "settling" period with the subject relaxed, motionless and preferably lying down, an ECG trace is displayed on the scope. Input sensitivity and time base controls on the scope are adjusted to give the most clear trace. An audio control on the amplifier is now adjusted until a "beeping" sound is produced, synchronized with every R wave of the ECG trace (the electrical activity associated with ventricular contraction).

The bio-amplifier also provides the facility of recording an ECG signal onto a tape recorder. For this a DIN socket and leads are provided. This facility is particularly important if a permanent record of an ECG trace is to be made. This involves photo-

RESOURCES



Heart throbs

John Tranter looks at biology equipment for investigating the human heart

graphing the trace on the oscilloscope screen - a procedure which is well described in the notes but which involves the use of a SLR camera with macro lens or extension rings for close focus work. It is unlikely that, having demonstrated the bio-amplifier's use in class, a teacher would then have the time to photograph the results at once - hence the need to record for work at a later time.

The bio-amplifier can also be used to monitor electrical signals from muscles and, with the audio signal facility, the effect of exercise on the heart rate (though there is too much interference from contracting muscles to investigate ECGs or heart rate during exercise).

This article is part of an occasional series commissioned by Chelsea College Centre for Science and Mathematics Education

In use, the amplifier was simple and effective. The need for a good contact between electrodes and skin was immediately apparent, but this could usually be achieved. With more difficult subjects, applying salt water beneath the electrodes helped considerably, and occasionally it was necessary to remove the surface layers of dead skin by rubbing with fine sand paper. With the best subjects, a clear ECG trace was obtained, showing the large QRS waveform, together with the smaller P and T wave peaks. With other subjects, the P and T parts of the trace were less distinguishable from the background "noise" of electrical interference (though the amplifier is effective in suppressing much of this).

With the standard oscilloscope of the type used for general laboratory work in schools, the ECG trace does not remain displayed on the screen but is a transient image with each sweep. For this reason, the photographic recording of results on the oscilloscope is recommended so that it is possible to study and view clearly all parts of the trace. There will, however, be an appreciable delay between using the bio-amplifier in class and seeing the most effective display of the traces obtained.

This is not the case with the ECO Interface now being supplied by Philip Harris. It is designed to be used with a single-channel analogue/digital interface unit (also from Philip Harris) and a variety of different microcomputers.

Safety has again been an important feature of design. The interface is battery powered and an optical fibre is used to send signals from the ECO unit to the A-D interface, so again there is no danger of voltages from faulty equipment being transmitted to the body.

Three electrodes are provided, consisting of a strip of electrically-conducting material with a "velcro" fastening. Two are wrapped around the thumbs and one attached to the ankle. The electrodes are easy and comfortable to wear, but the thumb straps are connected to the ECO unit via leads with crocodile clips which do not attach at all easily to metal tabs on the electrodes. The ECO unit has an automatic cut-out facility after about three minutes' use, to conserve battery power.

The A-D interface, into which signals from the ECO unit are fed, enables the monitor screen of the microcomputer to perform the functions of a storage oscilloscope. In this way, unlike the Unilab instrument, a display of a number of ECG waveforms can be studied and held on the screen for as long as necessary. This certainly makes detailed analysis of ECG traces immediate and easy. The A-D interface has sockets for ohms, voltage and high impedance inputs. It can be used for a wide variety of monitoring applications, but only the input of ECG signals is considered here.

An appropriate connecting lead between the A-D interface and microcomputer and a software program is also required to make the display of ECG traces possible. Different versions of the lead and software are available for six makes of microcomputer. The ECO and A-D interface were tested with a Research Machines 3802 microcomputer, but most other widely used models are catered for.

Once loaded into the microcomputer, the program provides a number of options for the types of display required. These are selected by typing simple commands on the computer keyboard. The instruction to use a "repeating, slow, real-time graph of about three seconds" may be initially a little confusing, but a grid is soon displayed on the monitor screen. A trace sweeps slowly across the grid, the speed of which can be altered as desired. The vertical position of the trace on the screen can be adjusted with a control on the A-D interface.

With the ECO interface switched on, and after a variable time of up to 30 seconds, a series of ECG waveforms is traced across the grid. The trace is automatically erased and then repeated unless the "hold" command is given. The trace can also be inverted by a simple command if the ECG waveform appears upside down.

The traces obtained with the Harris equipment were of a high quality and with the best subjects all the different peaks of the waveform were clearly shown. Some problems were encountered with the elimination of all interference, but in most cases a clear trace was eventually obtained. Being able to hold the traces on the screen for detailed examination was a most valuable facility. The Harris apparatus is certainly the most useful for effectively displaying ECG traces to a class, but it is also expensive if the A-D interface, software, connecting lead and microcomputer are not already available. Biologists interested in exploiting the potential offered here should consider persuading their other science department colleagues to make a joint investment.

Equipment and suppliers
Bio-Monitor £65.80 from Griffin and George, Gerrard Biological Centre, Worthing Road, East Preston, West Sussex, BN16 1AS.
Biological Amplifier (Cat no 743.001) £70.51 from Unilab Ltd, Clarendon Road, Blackburn, Lancs BB1 9TA.
Single-channel analogue/digital interface (Cat no P870207) £79.00; program software for 3802 (disc - cat no P870208), PET (cassette - cat no P870309), VIC (cassette - cat no P870359), BBC models A and B (cassette - cat no P870402), ZX81 (cassette - cat no P870451), Spectrum (cassette - cat no P870505), £9.50 each; connecting lead for use with 3802 (cat no P870457), VIC (cat no P870582), PET (cat no P870700), BBC Model A (cat no P870759), BBC Model B (cat no P870803), Spectrum (cat no P870906), £20.00 each, and ECO interface (cat no B729408) £69.50, all available from Philip Harris Ltd, 100 Lane, Stonehouse, Staffs WS14 0EG.

Next week

Alan Vincent reviews the Independent Learning Project for Advanced Chemistry

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Hickory D Clocks have produced a new Early Learning Clock for toddlers. Each division of the clock face is marked with a large Arabic numeral with the appropriate time term beside it. For instance, beside 1 is "past". The clock is also decorated with colour illustrations of the four seasons above the face. Price: £13.99 + VAT from Hickory D Clocks, 35 St Marys Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire PO11 9DB.

BP RESOURCES CATALOGUE
BPs Resources Catalogue for Schools and Colleges 1983-84 is now available.

The catalogue covers a wide range of educational resources for 9 to 16-year-olds and the over-16s. Films, videocassettes, computer software, resource packs, booklets, wallcharts and slide sets cover science and technology, biology, environmental studies, geography, chemistry, chemical engineering, physics, microelectronics, CDT, economics, business studies, history and engineering.

Catalogues are available from BP Educational Service, PO Box 5, Wetherby, Wetherby LS23 7EH.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES
One of the latest publications from the Schools Council is "School-based Staff Development Activities: A Handbook for Secondary Schools" by D Oldroyd, K Smith and J Leal.

The exhibition runs from March 6-22, Monday to Friday from 10.15 to 4.00 pm, at the Cockpit Gallery, Holborn, LEA.

from 11 schools in Avon L.A., and offers 27 activities for use and adaptation in staff development work, ranging from whole-staff conferences to initiatives taken by small groups of teachers. It is available, price £7.95 from Longman Resources Unit, 33-35 Tanner Row, York.

ANTI-SEXIST WORK

The Women's Education Group in conjunction with the Department of Cultural Studies has organized an exhibition of work that challenges sexism in education. The exhibition aims to show the range of anti-sexist work that has been undertaken in schools and youth clubs, and some of the resources produced for anti-sexist initiatives.

The exhibition runs from March 6-22, Monday to Friday from 10.15 to 4.00 pm, at the Cockpit Gallery, Holborn, LEA.

COCKPIT ARTS WORKSHOP (Annex), Princeton Street, London WC1.

UNITED KINGDOM IN FIGURES

The population of the United Kingdom increased from 53.3 million in 1962 to 54.8 million in 1982. In 1982 over 95 per cent of households in the United Kingdom had the use of a television set, more than 60 per cent had the use of a car, and over 70 per cent had use of a telephone.

These and other essential facts and figures for 1962, 1972, 1981 and 1982 on population, employment, education, the environment, law, energy, and the standard of living, plus a summary of the nation's accounts for 1982 are available in the latest edition of "United Kingdom in Figures", which is available free from the Press and Information Service, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, London SW1P 3AQ.

MEDIA

LIGHT ON DARK AGES

James Bromwich on "The Making of Britain", a series of televised lectures on the years 400 to 1066



The Making of Britain
Series of 12 programmes
Channel 4, LWT
Sundays 1.30-2.0pm.

The shadow cast by 1066 is a large one. It is much more than a date marking the appearance of a foreign dynasty, a new ruling class and a new socio-economic system, feudalism. Indeed it is not simply the conventional changeover for an English history period, but has instead come to be taken as almost the beginning of history itself. Before lies the obscurity of prehistory, the exotic of Roman Britain and the mythical world of Arthur. Nowhere else in Europe has there been so effectively created an image of the "Dark Ages" through this single-minded stress on one event.

The 1980's have seen a growing interest in the centuries between the departure of the Romans and the arrival of the Normans. The highly publicized excavations at York, the British Museum Viking exhibition, the BBC television series *In Search of the Dark Ages* have all demonstrated and contributed to this trend. *The Making of Britain*, currently being shown on Channel 4, adopts a simple formula to examine the period. Twelve different scholars each concentrate on particular features drawn from the crucial years between 400 and 1066. They

have ranged from the decline of Roman power and the conflicting forms of early Christianity in Britain, to the significance of the Saxon warrior king and the role of Eastern trade routes in Viking expansion. It is a wide perspective and justifies the series title.

The approach adopted to examine the past also makes clear that it is our perceptions that create history. The imposition of 1066 may be heavy on the popular mind, but historians using new evidence drawn from the written sources, the study of language and place names, as well as the growing body of archaeological material, have been doing a great deal to extend our understanding of the period and rescue it from obscurity. Nor is it simply a question of new evidence, as Richard Hodges has shown in his major new book on *Dark Age Economics*. It is as much about the questions we ask of the evidence. Our understanding of towns and trade in the Early Middle Ages has been considerably advanced by his knowledge of anthropology. It is a pleasure to have him contributing to the series.

Yet the programmes are unsatisfying. The problem is the formula used. It is stilted, though no doubt cheap. After a sweeping camera move through white clouds ("the mists of time"), the titles announce the programme. The week's scholar then walks onto the set and proceeds with a

lecture to the audience.

Once A J P Taylor turned this format into some of the most exciting television experiences ever. However, he never had to put up with the artificialities of the invited audience. He knew that the real purpose was to communicate with the television viewers, not a tiny group of students, sitting ill at ease, keeping straight faces when the cameras turn to them. This puts the viewers' senses in conflict: the words of the lecturer do not deal with them, yet our eyes are compelled to look at them. We are made aware of their reactions rather than our own.

The decision to give the scholars lecturers to stand behind might have seemed a method of helping them feel unexposed, sadly it only serves to stress the static nature of the programmes. Nuances of tone and gestures of arm and body are frequently frozen. The unrelaxed atmosphere is emphasized: Liam de Paor unhelpfully fiddles with his papers, Philip Dixon drums his fingers and Patrick Wormald smiles enigmatically. These are men who have made major contributions to history and deserve to be shown in a more sympathetic teaching situation.

The producers have attempted to overcome the shortcomings of the format by using illustration. However, it is little help diverting attention from stilted lecturing to still photography; a slow panning shot of Offa's Dyke only

stresses its inadequacy compared with film. If particular features were being pointed out rather than a general reference being made, it would matter far less, but this is rarely being done. The most successful has been Klaus Randsborg. He has been prepared to talk directly to the viewer and has not appeared to be frozen rigidly behind the lectern. Perhaps because he is using a foreign language, more likely because he is so keen to express his views on the dynamics of the Viking world, he overcomes the limitations imposed by the programme and wins our interest.

He argues that the two phases of Viking expansion were based on contrasting economic foundations in Scandinavia. The first followed the drying up of the Eastern trade routes and led to plundering raids and settlement, the second followed the expensive creation of a Danish state which, lacking the wealth brought by trade in luxuries, turned instead to organized large-scale attacks to bring in tribute, then taxation from conquests. It is a thesis he has presented in books with all the supporting evidence he can assemble. In the short time available he has wanted to convince us as well. It is the essence of historical debate and the basis for good television; the pity is that he has had to achieve this success despite the limitations imposed by the programme format.

throughout the country. There is also a series of six booklets containing some hard information on applications of IT in education, in small businesses, in the home and for the disabled.

Meanwhile, making no concessions to duffers, the C4 series *Voices* on February 29 showed a debate on artificial intelligence between Margaret Boden and John Searle. It was a model of its kind: the participants were given one simple question (is it possible that machines could ever replicate human intelligence?) and allowed to discuss it on their own terms with only minimal interference from the chairman, Ted Honderich. Long before the end, they had forgotten that people like me might be eavesdropping on their conversation and were deep in the problem of intentionality. They left this viewer aware of his ignorance and with some unanswered questions which kept him awake into the early hours of the morning. That, too, is a way of getting your audience involved.

become one), but the mixture needs careful handling. The storyline has to be twisted to meet up with the micro in its various applications without appearing too contrived and over 10 programmes even the consenting viewer is likely to experience some irritation with the formula.

The best feature of the series, as with all C4's broadly educational output, is the attempt to find new ways of putting the information across and the provision of supporting material as an encouragement to go further. The first programme introduces Mike to the Information Technology Exchange in Milton Keynes and the back-up leaflet reveals that there are similar centres

You can do better?

Robin Buss on "Anything We Can Do", a comedy series on the micro chip

Anything We Can Do
Channel 4, Living Time
Sundays from March 11
4.45-5.15 pm.

C4's new series on the micro assumes that in the field of information technology one is either a buff or a duffer and addresses itself to the duffer. As with earlier series on DIY, the informative content is thinly spread across a slice of situation comedy involving three characters: Helen, her father Mike and her husband John. Helen is a teacher who wants to get with IT for professional reasons; Mike has been made redundant and finds IT to fill in

the time; and John is the inevitable sceptic who thinks IT is something to put in his bin and prefers to do his sums on the back of an envelope.

The tone is reminiscent of those government information films about Granby's attempts to get the hang of decimal coinage. This has nothing to do with the fact that the series is backed by the Department of Trade and Industry, but comes from the assumption that the viewer's confidence will be increased if they are presented with characters so gormless that they are bound to feel superior. It is a sound educational principle (thinking you are something of an expert, even when you are not, can help you to

Equal pay for equal work

Victoria Neumark on "Women in the Twentieth Century", a series on the changing roles of women

SCHOOLS RADIO
Women in the Twentieth Century
BBC Radio 4 VHF
Thursdays 10.15-10.35 am.

So much for decades of argument on "man's work" and "woman's work". The makers of *Women in the Twentieth Century*, though careful to maintain their tone of breathy, and amused impartiality, do not lose sight of one of feminism's most telling arguments: power comes out of the mouth of the purse. It is the struggle for equal pay for equal work to which they give most simply.

Perhaps this is the reason of feminism thought most suitable for schools. However, even in the modern world economic is as liable to distraction as

concentration on the ideal. Thus the first programme, "The Angel on the Hearth", mistook when it attributed Elinor's perfection from her husband John Ruskin to the strains of perfect wifehood. Ruskin's importance or his wifehood, as Victoria Neumark, it is difficult, as the programme acknowledges, to generalize about the lot of half humanity, particularly in the nineteenth century when class differences emerged so strikingly and so unjustly. Contrasting the lives of bored middle-class women with the "work-horse" wives of Lancashire reads to accentuate difference, rather than a common oppression.

If the then series was common to all, then the series of today, which helped their mother and boys did what they

liked. We are only half-way to finding a truth without looking at the regression of sexuality, its relation to inheritance and property, the history of women in the twentieth century is just another specialist interest instead of a vital issue at the heart of things.

Some of the other programmes in the series do look at this sort of material, notably the last, "A Woman's Right to Choose". The chronological approach, however, pre-dominates: from "The Angel on the Hearth" we move to "The New Woman", her mind fixed firmly on the vote, her wrists chained to the railing. Did militancy delay the vote for women, as Penner Brockway here suggests, or wait till the vote, as it may seem today, of men being out-

voted by women and losing control of the country? The vote at that time assumed an importance which gaining it was to be. Edith Pepper, one of the suffragettes, falls of the "inner meaning of getting the vote" which was to "do away with all wickedness in the world". But of course, she adds, "it hasn't". And so on to the struggle for equal pay for equal work fore-dawned by Ada Nield Chew who died mended a living wage, ours is a dying wage" when Lancashire mill girls earned a tenth of their men's wage.

As the third programme in the series "You Country Needs You" pointed out, there are two parts to this struggle. First to get the vote, second to get the pay. The war effort ensured that women got a crack at "man's

briefings

radio & tv

For schools

MUSIC TIME
(Mon 10.15, Thurs 14.15, BBC2)
Seven to nine-year-olds are introduced to the story and music of "The Sleeping Beauty".

ZIG ZAG
(Mon 11.00, Wed 14.40, BBC2)
"How Old is It?" presents a whole range of evidence to help eight and nine-year-olds date objects.

WORDS AND PICTURES
(Mon 14.01, Wed 11.00, BBC2)
The Trog family decide to pull down a tree, introducing five to seven-year-olds to all sorts of tools and materials as well as "ch" at the beginning of a word.

ELECTRONICS AND MICROELECTRONICS
(Monday-Friday 00.30, VHF4)
A self-contained basic course for 14 to 16-year-olds bridges the gap between school physics and microelectronics. Explains the working of transistors, circuits and microchips. Kits and filmstrips are available from BBC Publications.

HOW WE USED TO LIVE
(Wed 11.39, Fri 9.47, ITV)
"A Tonic for the Nation" shows the reaction of ordinary people to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Nine to 12-year-olds investigate the reasons for the festival's success and see some of its attractions.

YOUR LIVING BODY
(Thurs 10.50, Fri 9.30, ITV)
Two programmes on "The Bloodstream" use x-ray techniques and ultrasound scans to show 13 to 15-year-olds the circulation and function of human blood.

QUEST
(Thursday 14.40, VHF4)
"Global Family" focuses on one of the main problems which divide the people of the world - famine.

Continuing education and general interest

LETTING GO
(Sunday 13.25, BBC1)
Parents and teenagers discuss the age-old problems of youthful revolt, sexual development, money and independence.

SPARKS
(Wednesday 19.40, BBC2)
This series concentrates on the energy, enthusiasm and enterprise of modern young people. Six films present a variety of stories about 16 to 19-year-olds who wrote to Radio 1 on projects they were undertaking.

"work". Two generations later we still have only twelve airline pilots, the same number as in 1945. Despite legislation the down-grading of the work to a lower pay scale as soon as women do it continues. The jump between the centre lathe and the sewing machine has widened again. For what, women, does your country need you?

The history of women in the twentieth century seems like the search for the blue bird. First women tried to break the mould of docility and purity; but that wasn't it. Then they got the vote, but that wasn't it. Then they got interesting work, but that wasn't it. What do women want? asked Freud. What does a woman most desire? asked the perfect knight of the last lady. In all cases the answer has been the same, "Her own way". What might most interest the student of history is the lengths man has gone to to deny her, and why. This radio series is a valuable introduction to what has been going on, but no more than a pointer to why. Excellent teachers' notes by Sheila Rowbotham.

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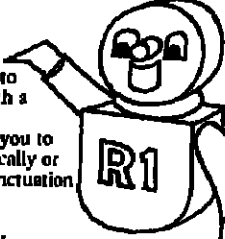
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EXTRA

Blanks in teaching

Myra Barrs questions the usefulness of traditional English exercises English

Put the following into the past tense: How (you, learn) your own language? (It, be) by filling in a lot of blanks? (Your parents, dirty you in this use of irregular verb forms in your cot? (You, spend) hours learning the difference between "a futile exercise" (sing) and "some futile exercises" (plur)? In short, (you, learn) by performing mechanical operations on artificial language, or by being a language user, in real language contexts, from your earliest childhood?

English exercises are back in earnest. What is more, they're back in bulk. Megatons of them are delivered daily, and in publishers' catalogues new versions and editions stretch out to the crack of doom.

What is going on? Well, it isn't hard to guess. Back to basics is still the fashionable, boring cry. The HMI have pointed out with unusual force that there is definitely no lack of emphasis on basic skills in schools, and that the challenge now is to offer a richer curriculum, one in which reading, writing and mathematics are used for real and interesting purposes. But publishers go on commissioning the same kind of dull, routine and, dammit, ineffectual books of drills — and schools go on buying them.

It may be helpful here to glance at the empirical research that has, again and again in this century, demonstrated the ineffectiveness of language exercises as a preparation for actual language use. Since the turn of the century, a steady stream of researchers have published papers which have, in one way or another, shown that practising grammar points in a vacuum does not improve children's actual written English. A useful summary of this work can be found at the end of the first chapter of Andrew Wilkinson's *The Foundations of Language*. From the list, you may pick out the work of Borae (1917) who "found higher correlations between scores in grammar, history and arithmetic than between those in grammar and those in composition". (This study is similar to a recent piece of independent research by a teacher who found that his class's performance on SRA predicted their performance in mathematics, but not their performance in English). Then there was Macauley's study in 1947, which suggested that the teaching of grammar might actually hinder rather than help the development of pupils' written English, simply because of the amount of time it required. Heath (1962) showed that a group of pupils who were taught "library-centred English" with no grammar exercises, were, after nine months, significantly ahead in composition compared with another group who had had a traditional "classroom-centred" programme of English, including English exercises.

In America, John McIlon (1969) did an exhaustive study of research on the relationship between formal grammar instruction and writing skill. The results of his investigation were unambiguous: he did not find a single study to support the idea that instruction in grammar improves writing. More recently, in New Zealand, a study of the effect of teaching traditional grammar, transformational grammar, or no grammar at all to three groups of secondary school students concluded that "English grammar, whether traditional or transformational, has virtually no influence on the language growth of children".

It is astonishing, therefore, that anybody thinks it worthwhile for children to spend time filling in blanks, or putting the apostrophe into the "brothers-in-law's trousers", when they might actually be using that time for learning to write. A look at some of the books of exercises currently in use in British schools of language publishing in the twentieth century, is a disheartening experience.

The language found in these books is, of course, artificial language. That is, it has been invented to teach certain language points. Sometimes it is hard to imagine any natural language context in which it might occur. Sentences, pedantic, often surrealistic, it speaks out of an unknown world: being true of the spoken language, but not always recognized as being just as relevant to written language development. This, however, is the fundamental point in the case against English exercises. The way to develop as a competent user of the written language is not through practice out of context. It is through writing — and of course, and most importantly, through reading. There are no short cuts. Children who are readers are naturally at an advantage; they are becoming increasingly familiar with the shapes and rhythms of the written language. And children who are writing at length, and who are using written language to express meanings that are important to them, are also learning how to work with the patterns of that language, and make it work for them.

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of typical secondary school students". Lucy Calkins (1980) found that a class of nine-year-old children who had no formal instruction in punctuation, but who were in a writing classroom where they used punctuation all the time, were able to explain almost three times as many kinds of punctuation as another class of nine-year-olds in the same school who had had much less writing time, but who had studied punctuation systematically through exercises and tests. All this supports the Bullock Committee's belief that "Explicit instruction out of context is in our view of little value".

One could go on, but to what purpose? It is all, quite clear, for anyone who actually wants to know. A recent *Horizon* programme showed that teachers of modern languages are making the same point. "Explicit instruction out of context" — grammar teaching, exercises and drills — is an extraordinarily inefficient way of teaching language. The problem is partly the nature of language itself, which is rule-bound, but often not bound by the kind of normative rules that grammar-book writers seek to impose on it. Partly, however, it is the nature of the human mind that is the stumbling block. Perfectly adapted to the acquisition of language in real human contexts, and to the use of a complex grammar that is inductively and unconsciously acquired, it proves stubbornly intractable to attempts to teach language through deductive methods which require the conscious application of grammatical principles. These arguments about language



Those children are eating! says the caption to this illustration by André Arnstutz from *Tell-Tale Tiger*, one of Allan Ahlberg's *Help Your Child to Read* series (Granada £1.95 each). Meant for parents, but worth a look by teachers of the first classes, since reading is definitely associated with enjoyment in these attractive little hard-back books.

When adults are invited to comment on the correctness or incorrectness of, for example, a piece of punctuation, they rarely refer to the "rules". They say things like this: "That doesn't sound right."

"I don't think the second one needs a comma."

"The rules say that, but it isn't what you'd say."

It strikes me as wrong.

This, in fact, is how most competent writers of English make their decisions about punctuation. They are experienced. In the written language, and their sense of its rules is inductively acquired. They have a subtle sense of the use of punctuation for pause and emphasis, and regularly appeal to the ear, to the tune of the language, in coming to a decision. A major objection to English exercises is that they hardly ever appeal to children's actual knowledge of written language. Instead, they teach over-simple rules, and drill them through sentences in which meaning does not matter.

In the absence of a large body of English grammar which is unambiguously right or wrong, the composers of exercise books create their own body of knowledge about language which has nothing to do with grammar and precious little to do with anything else. Children are asked to supply the names for the homes of animals (canals, inlets and eyes) or to turn "the little" into "the big" (the "tiger"). They learn the short forms of verbs (isn't, hasn't). Forms that they

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT 9.3.84
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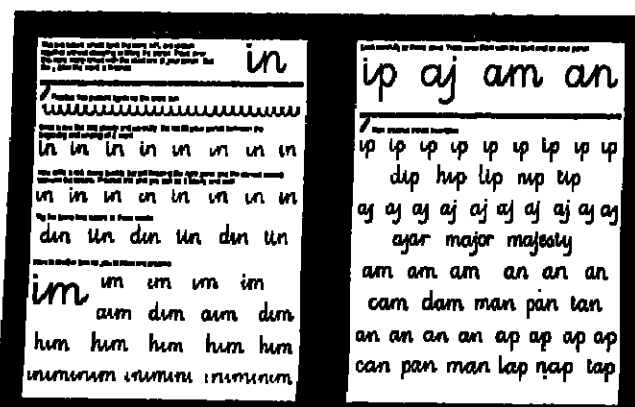
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All that glisters...

Paul Harling on maths

See The Maths. By Sandra Gilfeather.
Edward Arnold £1.50.

The Complete Tables Book. By L P Millinship and D R Howells.
Basil Blackwell £1.35.

Think About It: Problems in Basic Maths. By J Hulbert and W Wiles.
Heinemann Books 1-4 95p each.
Teacher's Notes and Answers £2.95.

Basic Arithmetic Puzzles: 1 Adding and subtracting, 2 Multiplying and Dividing. By Michael Holt.
Longman 75p each.

Basic Arithmetic Practice 5 Weighing and Measuring. By K A Hesse.
Longman 75p.

Key Maths Level 2 Book 7. By A L Griffiths and H P Shannon.
Oliver and Boyd £2.75.

Basic 9 A Day. By A L Griffiths.
Oliver and Boyd £1.40.

First Year Assessment Papers in Mathematics (2nd Edition). By J M Bond.
Nelson Pupils Book 95p. Answer Book £1.25.

Intensive Practice Tests Arithmetic 1 and 2. By W J Love.
Blackie Pupils' Books 65p. Teacher's Books £1.20.

Intensive Practice Tests Workbook 1 and 2. By W J Love.
Blackie Pupils' Books 65p. Teacher's Books £1.20.

Reviewing mathematics texts for use in primary schools can be a rather frustrating occupation. Each new batch renews the expectation that there will be something original, well produced, attractive and inexpensive among the offerings. Publishers' catalogues and leaflets are often crammed with interesting and colourful detail about the publications being launched and are obviously designed to attract the teacher to take a closer look. Unfortunately all that glisters is not gold and, more often than not, teachers are disappointed by the reality, especially when it is compared with the promise.

A good effort to provide something different has been made in *See The Maths* by Sandra Gilfeather. The book contains facsimiles of 14 everyday written documents such as a cereal packet, a comic or a toy catalogue. Each of these is accompanied by about 10 mathematical questions which can be answered by direct reference to the illustration, plus one or two other activities supposedly designed to extend the child's mathematical thinking. It is an excellent idea, but is rather let down by the inclusion of a large number of boring questions, which require arithmetical manipulations beyond the needs of a child, and which would be more suitable as practice material in using a calculator. Combined with the drab, colourless design it does not really measure up to its promise.

The Complete Tables Book by L P Millinship and D R Howells appears to be a revised omnibus version of their 1981 series *Master Your Tables*. It is a vast improvement on the earlier books. By reducing the number of repetitions of the multiplication bonds to be learned they have in fact enhanced the attractiveness of the books. Use of a range of vehicles for solving, revision and retention of the bonds should interest children and teachers, assuming that you believe that "tables" are best learned by rote memory rather than by careful application and the development of understanding of their structure. Printed in two colours, it contains attractive illustrations and has an excellent cover design. My main quibble is that a trade version is being

sold for home use and in unskilled hands could merely add to a child's frustrations about numbers.

With a title like *Think About It: Problems in Basic Maths* one might be optimistic that it is a series which has taken the Recommendations of the Cockcroft Report to heart and which contains activities for teaching and learning problem solving techniques. Alas I was disappointed. Technique is mentioned on only one page in each book. This is followed by some 50 pages of closely printed "word problems". Clearly there are different interpretations of the word "problem". However, within this limitation it is true to say that the problems have been carefully grouped and graded and if teachers wish children to concentrate on "word sums" then the books would provide a suitable source from which to glean material for individual needs.

Basic Arithmetic Puzzles 1 and 2, by Michael Holt and *Basic Arithmetic Practice* by K A Hesse are further examples of the increasing trend towards provision of home-learning texts. Indeed these are part of a whole series covering maths, reading and writing, and handwriting. The puzzles by Michael Holt are imaginative and interesting and, although not graded systematically, could make a useful contribution to the stimulation of a younger child's learning. The less I say about the Hesse Practice Books the better. They consist of 32 pages of calculations without any other activity. The most interesting illustration is of a 5ml medicine spoon!

Key Maths Level Two Book 7 by A L Griffiths and H P Shannon is the latest volume of the long-time-being-completed *Key Maths* series. As in all the books by A L Griffiths the material is extremely traditional, uses tried and tested ideas and approaches to each mathematical skill and is totally unadventurous, making few demands on the teacher in terms of knowledge or organizational skill. This is one of the attractions of the series for many teachers. It is safety maths *par excellence*. The books are well bound, use clear print, and have easy to read headings. I must admit, however, that the latest volume becomes rather wordy where it tries to be both teaching and practice material, but it is no worse than many others. If it had been produced just a few years ago I believe it could have replaced the Alpha and Beta series in the hearts of traditional chalk and talk teachers. Unfortunately it is now a bit too late and has lost too much ground to really succeed.

Basic 9 A Day by the same author suffers and gains in the same way as *Key Maths*. If you like the approach of supplying a number of graded arithmetic computations and word problems for "practice" each day, then this book is a match for the rest of the series and will sell equally well. The books are unimpressive, arithmetical, sound, but highly restrictive on a child's mathematical development because of their narrow range and remarkable ease of use in the classroom.

First Year Assessment Papers in Mathematics by J M Bond and *Intensive Practice Tests Workbooks* by W J Love are simply a series of mixed questions in diagrammatic, numerical and word form. They are not standardized, do not relate to a particular scheme or approach, and do not seem to be the results of wide ranging and intensive trialling and evaluation. They concentrate only on very low level mathematical knowledge and skills, containing no items to test practical proficiency and omitting any attempt to test translation, interpretation, extrapolation, application or problem solving. There can therefore be no valid use for the results.

Among contributors to the Extra:

Mary Jane Drummond is head teacher of Holt House Infants School, Sheffield.
Myra Barrs is English adviser in the London Borough of Brent.
Paul Harling is headmaster of All Saints C.E. School, Chorley, Lancs.
Gerald Hargis is headmaster of Henry Bellairs C.E. Middle School, Bedford.

Yield Lee is a professional assistant in the education department, London Borough of Ealing.

Angela Arnold is head teacher of Wharfedale Infants School, Manchester.



Katie Morag Delivers the Mail is a charming new picture book by Mairi Heddervick (Bodley Head £4.95). Katie Morag mixes up all the parcels to be delivered on the remote Scottish Isle of Struay but her dear old granny, who happens to wear dungarees and drive a tractor, comes to the rescue and all is well.

Techniques

Codes and Ciphers, by J C Hawtin. (Ladybird) begins with a demonstration of the use of secret writing in antiquity and leads up to an authentic introduction to one of the central principles of the Second World War Enigma cipher. Each stage of technical development is clearly presented and lucidly explained with practical exercises, to which the answers are supplied at the end of the book. Mr Hawtin writes for the interested child without condescension, and his book will provide older junior or younger secondary pupils with a good deal of enjoyment.

Colin Garratt's *Taking Photographs* (Ladybird) is also an excellent book. Starting with the basic cameras and cameras with which children are familiar, Mr Garratt provides carefully-considered advice on how to take better pictures without spending a fortune on equipment. This is not necessarily a simple matter, and the book's clear illustrations are accompanied by quite demanding text. However, the child who really wants to know about photography will learn a lot from this book, particularly if it is accompanied by practical guidance from an interested adult. *Painting and Drawing*, both by Kathie Layfield, from the same series offer useful, technical advice and deserve consideration from the school library. 70p each.

John Bald

Human machine

Junior Body Machine. Edited by Christiana Barrard.
Kestrel Books £5.50, 0 7226 5829 X.

Looking after the human body has become a thriving industry over the past few years, and many aging examples are subjected to jogging, aerobics, and diets—all in the cause of undoing the habits learned in childhood when our physiological knowledge of the species was much more limited.

It is refreshing, therefore, to find a text which sets out to explain to young people how their bodies are made and how they operate. The organs are described as the nuts and bolts of the human machine and frequent compar-

isons are made between such things as cars and pianos, in order to explain the operation of the parts. The structure of, and activity within the cell are described, as is DNA and the making of a baby.

From the teacher's point of view difficult areas have not been avoided and the book deals with feedback mechanisms, memory, learning, growing up, emotions, feelings and the development of personality. In the final section, *Junior Body Machine* intelligently informs about the best methods of health maintenance: having enough sleep, eating the right food and taking exercise.

The format is good in that each topic is arranged on a double page. The text

is simply written with new terms being introduced in bold type, and the whole is well supplemented with both black and white and colour diagrams and photographs. Interesting facts are highlighted within line boxes and there is a question on each page, the answers to which can be found just before the index.

This interesting and useful book deserves a place in the primary and middle school library and many parents will feel encouraged to provide it for their children because it deals with awkward questions in a straightforward way, without losing that human touch.

Jean E Baron

Continued from page 44

use every day of their lives with no noticeable difficulty. They learn the singular and plural forms of ox (oxen) and cannon (cannon). They are drilled in the use of clichés ("Make up sentences which use the following similes: as fresh as a daisy, as pleased as Punch, as dry as dust"). And over and over again they learn about language points that writers of exercise books fear they may get wrong.

With a kind of mad solicitude, the writers of these books continually point out to children the very conceptions that they want them to ignore. "These words are commonly confused," they explain, and proceed to provide children with plenty of practice in confusing them. Off and on, they hear: their, there and they're; and (the oldest favourite), to, too and two are practised until it is a wonder that there (their, they're) is a child in the land who doesn't confuse them.

But, as everyone knows, when children come to write, however much practice they have had in this kind of decontextualized language use, they make errors. And errors do frighten people. We know much more, from linguists, now, about error and language-learning. We know that making errors is a natural part of learning to speak, and that errors can often represent imperfectly formulated rules. We know that the same is true of learning a second language and that language learners regularly begin by making certain errors which, at a later stage of learning, they will correct. We also know that correction has very little effect on error—and that correction is generally too random to be helpful in any case. We know that, as language learners gain more information through exposure to the language, their language becomes more correct; there is, in Don Holdaway's words, "a gradual approximation towards correct forms". But on the whole we are only just beginning to apply these insights to the learning of the written language. The interest in miscue analysis, however, is an indication that, in

the case of reading, they have begun to be accepted.

Written errors are possibly more disturbing to us than spoken errors. They are there in black and white, evidence of imperfect learning and, also, we fear, of imperfect teaching. It is simpler to get the red pen and blot them out than to consider how children can be helped to develop a reader's eye for their own mistakes.

Anxiety about language, in our class-bound society, is never far away. And, as Randolph Quirk points out in *The Use of English*, anxiety about language is particularly marked in the nervous middle classes, who expend a disproportionate amount of energy on a "shabby obsession with variant forms of English". So exercises that suggest that you can be one up if you recognize certain uses as unambiguously right or wrong may be popular for that reason. Or, as a book in front of me puts it: "Different from... RIGHT. Different from... WRONG. Different from... VERY WRONG."

(The Oxford English Dictionary, on the other hand, says "from, to, than, all used by good writers past and present.") We can all very easily be made to feel nervous about our own language. And nervousness is a bad basis for taking the kinds of risks that a language user has to take. I am reminded of the boy who said he was making his writing very small "so they won't see the mistakes."

It can be daunting to see how many errors children make when they write freely. Teachers who do not want to discourage children about their writing are rightly reluctant to point out every error in a young writer's story. Books of exercises seem to offer a solution—a place where errors can be marked and right forms practised without so much danger of children being discouraged. Language is split in two, into a part that is "mechanics" where the "tools" are sharpened and polished, and a part that is "creative" where expression, not accuracy, is the thing. Exercises offer a means whereby teachers can believe that they are dealing and, in an

accountability climate, be seen to be dealing, with the sharp end of language. But the possibility of such a division is illusory, and the mechanical analogies are inapplicable.

I am not, it seems necessary to stress, arguing against the accurate use of language, or against the study of language as a subject interesting in itself. As a writer and an English teacher, I naturally find language a subject of absorbing interest, and as an educationalist I want children to have every opportunity to become effective speakers and writers of English. But I am opposed to false solutions, and that is what English exercises are. They reduce the whole fascinating business of the discussion of language to a mechanical exchange, where the child is a filler in of blanks, and the teacher is a tickler and crosser. Appearing, as they do, in quantity, in the catalogues of every educational publisher, they are bought in quantity, and influence practices in very negative ways. And soon, heaven help us all, we shall have Ridout on floppy discs, and the computer screens of the country will be glowing with *to, too, and two*. It seems a shame, when all that precious time could be used for learning to write.

Myra Barrs

The following books and courses were referred to:

1. Hovind Richards: *Junior English Class*
2. Eileen Sanders: *Primary English Blackie*
3. T. G. Leighton: *Punctuation, Caswell*
4. Graves & Grimshaw: *Smudge and Chewpen*, Edward Arnold
5. Ffenden Hughes: *Using Commas*, Hart-Davis
6. Gee & Watson: *The Usborne Book of Better English*, Usborne
7. Bill Ridgway: *Twelve to Sixteen: A Graded English Course*, Edward Arnold
8. Sue McCowan: *English Composition*, The Arden Press
9. Oliver Gregory: *Oxford Junior English*, Oxford University Press

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Science games

the drawing of various face-shapes leads to discussion of varying human characteristics, and the wearing of clothes made of various materials leads to an understanding of insulation and how it works.

Each sub-section contains a programme of work which should not only be within the grasp of all but the least able child, but should make science fun, too. The section "Me and My Shadow", for example, contains six sub-sections dealing with such topics as Play With Shadows, Shadows, from Things, etc. Each sub-section is in two parts: "For Children to Do" and "To Discuss". Further suggestions are added at the end of each major section.

Of course, there is always a danger that the less able child will see the "games" he is playing in isolation from the underlying scientific principle. However, there is much more to be said for this approach than for the more sterile methodology of former years. With adequate follow-up discussion, there is no reason why enthusiastic teacher should not be able to bridge the gap. If this does not happen, it is certainly not the fault of Macdonald's excellent publication.

Bill Ridgway

Science for Children With Learning Difficulties: A Unit for Teachers. Macdonald Educational Learning through Science £4.95. 0 356 09364 6.

One conclusion of the Warnock Committee was that science was taught unsuccessfully in the majority of schools visited. It was proposed that a range of appropriate materials and guidelines be developed for the use of those concerned with teaching science in the primary sector. The unit under review goes a long way towards meeting this aim, and provides a sound framework for practical activities together with stimulating pupil material.

It comprises 128 pages of teaching aids covering a range of principles which form an accepted core of scientific understanding at primary level. It is divided into sections, each section split into illustrated sub-sections containing a wealth of material. The teacher is encouraged to expand the presented ideas, and to develop them in his or her own way. The pupil, on the other hand, is gently led into basic scientific methodology through the observation of himself, his life, and that of living things and objects which form a part of his environment. Thus

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The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 2RU, England

Down to earth

The Work of The Wind. By David Lambert.
Weather and Climate. By George and Anne Purvis.
Wayland £4.25 each.

Weather. The Seasons. The Night Sky. Franklin Watts £3.25 each.

50 Facts About Our Planet. By Ron Taylor.
Franklin Watts £3.99.
Piccolo Explorer £1.50

Books about planet Earth no longer come singly but in waves. Every publisher worth his salt seems determined to produce a mini-series aimed at children in the 7 to 10 year age group, and is often hard to see any particular merit in one version of the theme rather than another. Spoiled for choice, you probably won't go far wrong by sticking with a publisher, and series, that you already know; however, for those who may be thinking of venturing into pastures new here are the latest offerings from Wayland (the Planet Earth series) and Franklin Watts (the First Look series).

The Work of The Wind and Weather and Climate, both from Wayland, provide a good basic introduction to the atmosphere and its workings. Each has a clear text accompanied by informative diagrams and striking photographs, and they are both equipped with a guide to further reading, a glossary and a workbook index - ideal reference books in miniature, which not only inform the reader but educate him/her in how to use reference books.

Unfortunately, when I used the index in Weather and Climate to check out some of my favourite topics, I found a major howler. On page 34, we are told that the shortest interglacial is 15,000 years; it should, of course, be the longest. I also take a pedantic objection to the use of the term "last" ice

Age to refer to the glaciation which peaked 20,000 years ago; all the geological evidence suggests that there will be more to follow. Apart from such nit-picking, however, these are excellent books of their kind.

The First Look series is also very good, but slightly cheaper and slightly less well-presented. It also seems to be aimed at a younger audience, the 7 to 8-year-olds rather than the 10 to 11-year-olds. These books also have short glossaries and indexes, but no guide to further reading. Their illustrations are primarily pictorial, and artwork rather than photographs, but they convey a simple message effectively. Weather, as its title implies, is less ambitious than its Wayland counterpart, and does not go in to climate. The Seasons, however, does make such a foray, using this as an excuse for the most dramatic artwork in the book, of New York under the snow of a new ice Age. The temptation must have been irresistible. Once again, two very good books, joining others in a known series. But as for which series you choose, you might just as well toss a coin.

Franklin Watts, however, has recently produced two other books which move, respectively, both outward from the atmosphere and down onto solid ground. The Night Sky, in the same First Look series, goes far beyond its title by informing the reader about objects, such as the gas giant planets and other galaxies, that can only be investigated by space probes or large telescopes, not by simply looking heavenwards, but Martin Hamer (or book) does the job very well. He whets the appetite so successfully, touching on many fascinating possibilities and leaving the door ajar, that it is more glaringly apparent in this book than its companions that some indication of where to find out more about the

Our town

Behind the Scenes series: Radio Station, Hotel, Car Ferry, Police Station, Supermarket, Football Club. By Andrew Langley and Chris Fairclough. Franklin Watts £3.50 each.

In the High Street series: Thomas Cook, By Edmund Swinglehurst. Wayland £4.50.

Our Post Office. By Ron Deadman. Macmillan Education and the Post Office £3.95.

The key to children's understanding of the world outside their immediate experiences often lies in the everyday services which are scattered throughout their local community, which is presumably why so many young children take part in a project on "People who help us" fairly early on in their school career.

Franklin Watts have attempted to give young children of six to nine years a detailed overview of just how some of these familiar but "private worlds" as they describe them, operate. In their new series Behind the Scenes.

The first six titles have been chosen with care and the familiar worlds of the supermarket, the police station or the hotel have been intertwined with the more exotic attractions of the car ferry, the radio station and the football club. The format is identical in each case, with cut-away artwork to give a detailed picture of the structure of the building itself and thereafter excellent colour photographs by Chris Fairclough, which convey, extremely successfully, the flavour of real-life experiences.

The books are well structured, with chapter-headings, contents, index, glossary and a fascinating section of facts and figures relating to the subject in hand. (Did you know that the British buy 85,000 tonnes of frozen peas every year?) The text, though accessible to its young audience, does not talk down to them and there is a natural progression in the presentation of information, which is pleasing to see, after the endless streams of unconnected facts which often masquerade as information books these days. This is an attractive and well produced series which will be useful in libraries and schools alike.

A more complex approach, for the top junior, lower secondary age group taken by Wayland's In the High Street series, which in previous titles has looked at the internal workings of

ganging of a group of petulant little girls. Is this really a valuable investment for a young child's precious time and effort?

Methuen's Pied Piper series (£3.95 each) have provided a solid range of material, specifically biased in favour of children's developing interests. Current titles reflect this attention to breadth in family/gang adventure, mystery/suspense stories and sport. Michael Hardcastle's *Fast From The Gate* is an especially welcome story of motocross and scrambling. Character and plot development are sufficient to maintain interest and stimulate prediction without making the book unapproachable for the child who might prefer active participation to the spectator role. *Microfish*, Robert Lee's new offering is an interesting addition to the series, although its slick fishy word play with adult allusions may leave some children floundering.

Of the more established series, I have tended to favour Andersen's Young Readers' Library. It offers the kind of literary light and shade not always apparent in other series. The wonderfully zany *Supergran* (Wilson) and *Mr Browner* sci-fi titles (Currie) began here and have established themselves as paperback favourites. The latest Mr Browner (*Mr Browner and the Mini-Meteorites* £3.95) and Little Vampire (*Little Vampire Moves In* £4.50) (Sommer-Bodenburg) are witty, implausible fantasies, whilst Roger Collinson's *Del Lavinta Goodbody!* (£4.50) boasts a delightfully outrageous heroine. Within this series a child may need more guidance in selection, but the rewards are worth the effort.

Only during the last couple of years have less practised readers been given an equally sensitive and challenging diet in an attractive series format. Julia MacRae's handsome *Blackbird* and *Redwing* series (£3.25 and £3.50 respectively) with excellent contributions from Bernard Ashley - *Linda's Lie* and *Your Guess Is as Good as Mine*, Ruskin Bond - *Tiger Forever* and Jane Gardam - *Kil*, prove beyond doubt that real emotions can be faced and current issues of concern at personal or environmental levels can be woven into totally absorbing stories in fluid, stylish and accessible prose.



One of Tony Ross' illustrations for Hazel Townson's *The Shrieking Face* soon to be published in Andersen Young Readers' Library.

Another recent, attractive departure is the Methuen Pocket Bears series, which neatly brings me back full circle to my early days of teaching and the shared pleasure of innovative picture-books. Moonlight Publishing in conjunction with Methuen have chosen some delightfully stimulating picture-book texts, reformulating them to appeal to the portable, pocketable demands of young readers. This beautifully designed series is singular and in its inclusion of poetry on the list. Thomas Hood's poem is sensitively brought to life with wittily colourful illustration and delightful textual decoration in *In Summer When I Go To Bed*, illustrated by J. Wijngeerd.

In looking at a great many series titles, I confess I am bewildered by the obscurity of poetry in books produced for young readers whose delight in sound and word play is so readily engaged. For the less willing reader the pleasure of poetry can be a vital step in gaining linguistic facility and stamina to approach more sustained prose work. For many young readers it has been a long and sleepy literary winter. Innovations seem scarce at hand, can Spring be far behind?

In search of inspiration

Vicki Lee on junior reading

stories of Trechorn (Kestrel), collections by Margaret Mahy and Joan Aiken, the diverse delights of the Ahlbergs (Fontana Lion/Puffin) or Philippa Pearce's *The Squirrel Wife* (Kestrel) or lively *Battle of Bubble and Squawk* (Puffin), have all brought the special voice of the storyteller to the receptive inner ear of young readers who could not resist the temptation of voyages into someone else's imagination.

Yet single titles are not enough. At lower junior age children are very vulnerable. They are exploring new realms in their private and public perception of life and their environment, so that much reinforcement of an appropriate kind is needed to support their adult and authority. Dominated by adults and authority, they are just beginning to question the nature of their place in the scheme of things. They want the recognition of their individuality, yet need the security of group acceptability, be it family, peer group or larger social group. The reinforcement of familiar experience is required to provide an anchor in an environment of rapidly alternating friendship/family loyalties, where previously black and white motives recog-

acceptable to children. There is a clarity in the presentation of right or wrong and a superiority amongst the protagonists to which children in a period of egocentricity in their own maturation, will readily respond. This close, personal voice from author to child is amply reinforced by the sheer volume of her output. Is it surprising that children still consume her books, regardless of dated tone, since she not only communicates personally through her story, but links them with many other children all over the world who have also shared the success of her particular brand of storytelling? The establishment of a Famous Five Club seemed superfluous, when it could be guaranteed that a unanimous bond of reading experience was more powerful than contrived club membership.

Blyton has been described as a phenomenon. Elements of her success have been attributed to form the basis of series for newly confident readers with varying degrees of success. A fast-moving linear narrative has been a basic formula for series like Hamish Hamilton's *Gazelles* and *Antelopes*. Yet the nature of the brief initially given to authors of notable reputation, seemed to stifle their individual voices. The resultant formulation was little better than some of the livelier reading scheme material, at considerably greater cost. The limited parameters, however, well-intended, combined with the unwinning jacket, gave little inducement to a child to exercise his newly acquired skills. Invitations to join clubs associated with prolific authors were tried by other publishers but the most successful line of pursuit has undoubtedly been the development of episodic stories based around particular characters. This formula has produced many dependable "pot-boiler" characters, such as Agatha Saxe (Deutsch), Cosmo Sempé's irreverent, Nicholas and Elsie, and the much-loved Paddington (Fontana Lions). However, the character range is still within "safe" areas. There are still too few wholeheartedly multi-ethnic stories to engage the interest of children persevering with a language that is not their mother-tongue.

More recently the greatest stimulation to a major re-evaluation of provision for this age-range has been the accessibility of high quality paperbacks through school bookshops. Children's naturally acquisitive yearnings for the latest in a series has intensified the demand for more literature of quality in this field. The wealth of classic, modern classic and innovative writing promoted by Puffin and Fontana Lions in their "young" series has done much to focus attention on appropriate choices for teachers and children to share, while the collaboration between Cliffs Moon and Books for Students resulting in the excellent Kaleidoscope collections gives more specific assistance to teachers in enabling them to encourage independent choice by children. These "real" books have created an expectation of quality which, until recently, series books have been unable to match.

Gazelles and *Antelopes* made a token response by revamping their jackets. But no child is fooled by such simple disguises, and recent titles have been appreciably better. But it is a sad reflection on series when a title within it - *The Ice Palace* by Robert Swindells - only achieves the notice it deserves when given a totally new image in paperback (Fontana). Current *Antelopes* have a comfortable consistency which provides a reliable guarantee of success to a child seeking an accessible narrative without too great a challenge. Particularly notable are John Escott's contributions to the series - *Alarm Bells*, *Red Rescue* and *Burglar Bells* (£2.75 each) - providing more varied structure, and some more linear progression, and some more realistic confrontations with emotion. The same consistency is not apparent in the series for very young readers, *Gazelles* (£1.95 each). They are no match for the excellent *I Can Read* series (World's Work, some in Puffin) nor the individual works of such authors as Philippa Dumas, Jan van Leeuwen, Alison Uttley, the Ahlbergs, Lohs or Blegvad. Catherine Sefton's latest addition to the series merely documents the squabbling



Barbara Willard's *Smiley Tiger*, with illustrations by Laszlo Acs, will be published in the *Blackbird* series (Julia MacRae) later this month.

was snapped up faster than I could replace it. Each term as I made alterations to the book stock I eagerly fell upon any individual titles that offered the promise of pleasurable success which had failed to materialise through series. Russell Hoban's *Dinner at Albert's* or his wonderfully zany *Twenty-Elephant* (both Cape), Florence Parry Heide's

nised in the behaviour of others and self suddenly begin to extend into provocative shades of grey. Although many adults may inwardly wail at the mention of Enid Blyton, there can be little doubt that she understood children's needs at this basic level, and however much her moral standpoint and middle class ethic repel adults, they seem genuinely

Six years after the publication of the Bullock Report, the inspectorate of the authority in which I was then teaching issued a sequel in the form of guidelines for Language Development. Amongst our staff it raised one prominent question - why were we being redirected to something which had previously been emphasised in considerable depth? The uncomfortable truth was that maybe we were not doing enough with our theoretical appreciation of Bullock. As with most stimuli intended to focus improvement in any area, the initial motivation is apt to lose momentum as other pressures and priorities intrude.

The Report was published at a time when interest in children's literature was beginning to spill beyond the incestuous circle of publishers and reviewers into the wider world of schools through the enthusiasm of agencies of children's librarians, bookshops and movements promoting bookshops in schools. The growing interest of parents manifested itself in the increasing support of the Federation of Children's Bookgroups. Bullock's recommendations on reading stimulated much-needed questioning amongst these interested parties about the quality of language experience being provided for our children through literature. In the flurry of readability tests, graded reading schemes, extension material, progress tests and comprehension exercises which followed, it was clear (certainly from the unequivocal focus of that inspectorate sequel) that in all this industrious activity, we had somehow missed the point.

We were too concerned with making reading happen. As Margaret Spencer has conveyed in her book *Learning to Read* (Bodley Head), the professional skill of a teacher lies in knowing the material, knowing the child and in bringing the two together at the crucial moment. She emphasises this special role of teacher-as-enabler, in the sensitive two-way process of reading that exists between the adult and the learning child. After the initial breakthrough into the world of print, we should, perhaps, be trying harder to encourage Edward Blishen's notion of creating readers for life. Much research has been conducted to discover how to enable this desire to become a reality. Does it happen through careful progress through graded material? does it happen in an environment flooded with ungraded literature? does it happen when children's oral reading is monitored daily? All these strategies have importance in some measure, but what vital considerations are missing. The powerful model of reading success demonstrated in the enthusiastic read-

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Real and unreal worlds

Angela Anning reviews readers

Reading 360, Levels 1-4. Ginn. Sets 1, 2 £3.50 for 6; Set 3 £3.95 for 6.

Terraced House Books. By Peter Heath. Set 1, 2 £3.50 for 6; Set 3 £3.95 for 6.

Wide Range Readers: Stories from World Religions 1-4 £1.60 each. Myths and Legends 1-4 £1.60 each. Oliver and Boyd.

Context Reading Levels 1-3. By Glens Smith and Barbara Rasmussen. Oliver and Boyd. Pupil's book £1.70. Skillmasters £10.00 + VAT. Teacher's book £1.75.

Cliffhangers. By Sue Palmer. Alison Kilpatrick and Patricia McCall. Books 1-4. Oliver and Boyd 50p each. Teacher's notes 50p.

Winners. By Paul Graves and Martin Pitts. E. J. Arnold. 4 books £1.10 each.

A Programme for Reading Development in Primary Schools. Strathclyde Regional Council, Department of Education, Glasgow Division. 2 booklets for £2.00.

Look at... series. Cliff and Bernice Moon. Oliver and Boyd. Set of 6 books + teacher's notes £5.50.

Oxford Junior Readers. By David Oakden. Stories from History books 1-6. Oxford University Press £1.75 each.

Child to Child Readers. Edited by Paula Edwards. Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, London WC1 1EH.

As the spring sun rises, teachers leaf feverishly through the pages of publishers' catalogues in staffrooms across the country. The publishing houses rush to exhibit their new growth, bent on capturing a share of the market. With limited amounts of cash to spend, both buyers and sellers have to think hard about priorities.

Some of the new materials take tentative steps towards acknowledging current issues in thinking about the teaching of reading. One issue is a call for a holistic approach to curriculum planning. The most quoted extract from Bullock this year must be: "The pupil needs to be able to cope with the reading required in each area of the curriculum. Another issue is the relevance of school learning to real-life literacy and numeracy needs." John Merritt and others have lamented the growth of an inward looking reading industry which lives looking off as an isolated area of the curriculum and have also suggested that we may have

created "a series of convenient bolt-holes" from the real issues of educating pupils for the realities of life beyond the school walls. On the whole, however, the reading diet on offer reflects a traditional school reading curriculum, well insulated from the real world.

The mainstay of reading resources in most primary schools is still the chosen reading scheme. Massive financial investment in the original basic provision of a scheme means that schools are constrained to stay with one publishing house. Most publishers produce an annual starred NEW series to revive flagging interest in the basic units of a scheme. Ginn, who must be the most successful marketing firm in the business, have produced 30 Little Books to extend provision in Reading 360, levels 1-4. With remarkable ingenuity the authors have produced story lines from a very limited vocabulary, but prizes must go to the illustrators for making the books palatable. I suspect these small, pretty books will prove more popular with children than the mainstream readers.

Methuen have produced two more sets of the Terraced House Reading Books - an excellent little series written with the urban child in mind, with a strong multicultural content in the photographs and clear text.

Oliver and Boyd cannot fail with their Wide Range Readers series - stacked up in vast barricades in junior classrooms throughout the country. As a concession to current educational thinking, they have added to the series this year sets of *Myths and Legends*, *Stories from World Religions*, and *Wide Range Science Stories*.

The acquisition and practice of skills in the context of "stimulating" reading material is another major selling area. Oliver and Boyd provide extensive coverage of this area of the market. Two new series from them are *Context Reading* and *Cliffhangers*.

Context Reading is a course aimed at middle primary classes and children with learning difficulties in upper primary classes. It has been designed to encourage children to practise the higher order reading skills in context. The format of the three levels is a pupil's book, backed up by skillmasters. The reading content is divided into the kinds of themes covered by traditional primary school project work. The rationale of the series and a meticulous chart showing the skills introduced and developed at each level and suggested activities for follow up language development are included in a teacher's guide.

Cliffhangers is an attempt to provide

resources to encourage reading for pleasure and oral language development. The four books in the series are aimed progressively at children from the reading age of eight to eleven or twelve. Each book contains 10 extracts from the most well-known recent children's fiction. Each of the extracts is followed by discussion points and suggested activities for oral work which the authors are at pains to point out require "careful teacher-led organization and preparation". I feel squeamish about "potted extracts", but again, in fairness to the authors, they do point out that the exercises are to stimulate the children to read the novels for themselves and that a good stock of these should be ready in school or class libraries. Other Good Reads are suggested at regular intervals throughout the textbooks.

Winners, a new E. J. Arnold series of four books, is also, one supposes, designed to encourage reading for pleasure. These limp and spinily

the teaching of reading covered in the documents. The representative returned to school with a prepared package in hand to disseminate the workshop practice to the rest of the school staff. The booklets were de-vised to accommodate the full range of expertise in the teaching of reading. The content is sound, unthreatening, and a little unexciting. The authority has already produced a *Programme for Written English Development* and in the pipeline is a similar publication on Spoken Language: a commendable effort which has taken time, cash and commitment to organize. It would be interesting to know if actual changes in classroom practice are being monitored over any length of time in order to evaluate the effectiveness of this kind of in-service initiative.

What about the moves to get reading out of its pigeon-hole and into the "real world" of learning? Two series are trying hard. The Look at... books by Cliff and Bernice Moon are particu-



Goldilocks and the Three Bears is one of the Story Puzzle Books from Longman (85p each) which combine puzzles and other activities with a simple traditional story. Designed for pre-school children, they are meant to stimulate the interest of child and parent alike in sharing stories.

books aimed at active nine to eleven-year-olds are all about football, hiks and tents. In this active world, William, a child confined to a wheelchair after a road accident, strives to compete in "Billy's Big Push".

However marvellous the new resources are promised to be, ineffective teaching can render them useless. The Strathclyde region of Scotland has a half to seven. The text encourages children to observe, compare, contrast and record - the essence of scientific inquiry. Teachers' notes contain suggestions for further reading and "various cross-curricular activities designed to foster first-hand experience linked to the topic". You can't argue with that.

David Oakden has written a history series entitled *Stories from History* for Oxford University Press. Each book, with a vast historical span of pre-Roman times to the early twentieth century, contains fictional stories, based on historical facts and events and in some cases real historical characters. The books are "graded" for reading difficulty. The illustrations are lavish and lively. As fiction the stories are enjoyable, and the details carefully evoke the atmosphere of the period in which they are set. How much sense of the causes and effects of historical changes the young readers would absorb from the endless kaleidoscope of periods is less certain.

Finally, to lovers of a different kind. A group of doctors and educationists who have worked in Africa, the Caribbean, the Far East, India and Latin America have written eight stories as part of a health education programme. They used the narrative form "because they believe that Health Education should be taught through all subjects in the curriculum". The books are aimed at older brothers and sisters in families - hence the blanket title of *Child to Child Programme*. The hope is that the series will be translated into other languages and adapted for the needs of specific communities. Information about the books can be obtained from the Institute of Child Health.

Each story is concerned with a fundamental health issue - dirty water, dental and eye care, child development, diarrhoea, diet, accidents in the home, pneumonia. At first the format seems rather dated with its block print and line drawings, but I found myself considerably sobered as I read through the stories, with their life and death issues so clearly defined for the young audience. For them the simple act of staying alive is what life is all about.

The comparative privileges and place of the vast majority of primary age children in our classrooms might well be shaken, as mine was, by reading this series. Real life issues indeed.

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Anansi

The Crest and the Hide and other African stories. Collected by Harold Courlander. Gollancz £5.95. 575 03360 6. West Indian Folk Tales. Retold by Philip Sherlock. Oxford University Press £1.95 19 274127 6.

Multi-cultural education is an important part of the primary curriculum if children are to be adequately prepared for life in the coming decades, and folk-tales can be a delightful way in for teacher and child.

Simply and vividly told, with animal characters at the centre of events, it is possible through them to reach some understanding of unfamiliar ways of thinking and behaving, and of the humour and action for their own sake. Both collections contain stories which may have been devised to pass on social or moral lessons to the young within the cultures they came from, so they can speak directly to young minds in our community about fundamental issues as well as those of Africa and the Caribbean.

The little story of *The Crest and the Hide* comes from Zaire and points out the limits of what one friend can fairly ask of another. There are 20 tales in all, some only two and a half pages long which, while enjoyable or poignant in themselves, could also make good starting points for class discussions or assemblies. "Famine Does Not Make A Man Clever", for instance, could be performed by a single actor plus a narrator. It tells how a man in a fit of carelessness threw away his extra bread on a trail. The following year he finds himself on the same trail during famine, and in his hunger wastes time searching for the bread instead of looking for roots to feed himself and his family.

"The Hunter and His Medicine Spear" is a Zambian version of *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. "Musa and Kofere" is the comic Hausa story of two boggars, one blind and one lame, whose double-act is destroyed by the lame partner's greed. "All Things Are Linked" makes a neat ecological point with the parable of the king who has some frogs killed because their croaking keeps him awake. After a week of blissful quiet he is plagued by the mosquitoes whom the frogs used to eat.

In case all this is beginning to sound tediously worthy it should be said that the collection is full of colourful detail and the language is vivid and direct.

Philip Sherlock's classic collection, *West Indian Folk-Tales* is now in paperback. The introduction will be useful to teachers who know little about the origins of the West Indian peoples and the language, though stylized, is lucid and straightforward. The first group of stories comes from the Carib Indians, one of the indigenous peoples of the Caribbean. They describe the origin of the world, the great flood, how a number of animals came to be as they are, how Man fell out with the animals and had to have Dog created to be his friend, and in a gently ironical tale, how Jaguar was persuaded to stay within the fold instead of sloping off on his own to kill and eat any animal which took his fancy.

Even children who are resistant to the idea of exploring other cultures will be enchanted by the antics of Anansi the Spider. Anansi is the Twi word for spider and he is the chief character in the Ashanti folk tales which the African slaves took with them to the West Indies. Anansi is the con-man par excellence, who usually manages to scheme or talk his way out of the tight spots his greed or laziness have got him into. In "How Crab Got His Hard Back" Anansi manages to win a reward from the tight-fisted old Witch-Woman Crim with the help of one of her foster-children Crab. Anansi gets rich, but poor Crab ends up with a calabash permanently glued to his back. The cost of helping out Anansi tends to be high but, as Philip Sherlock remarks in his introduction, there is something satisfying about the little spider-man and his cunning.

As stronger and more powerful than himself, and showing a rather deplorable tendency to spread a small amount of maliciously amusing truth, using large pieces of cleverness to cover the poverty of the written material. The same publisher's *Go, Monkey, Monkey!* is really 50

Beverly Anderson

World series

Let's go to Nigeria! Hong Kong! Brazil! Antarctica. By Keith Lye. African stories. Collected by Harold Courlander. Gollancz £5.95. 575 03360 6. West Indian Folk Tales. Retold by Philip Sherlock. Oxford University Press £1.95 19 274127 6.

It can be both fascinating and enlightening for young children to learn that there are as many different lifestyles in the world as there are countries, and publishers seem to be eager to respond to their curiosity by producing a plethora of new series, each with its own distinctive approach to the subject.

The "Let's go to..." series by Franklin Watts is now familiar, with its standard format of 32 pages of basic information aimed at the seven to nine years age group. The coverage is always the same: races, religions, work, stamps, and coins, festivals, housing and education are explained in a text which may not always flow too well, but which is approachable and does not patronize its young readers. The full-colour photographs are an important part of the appeal of this series, so it was disappointing to find that the quality of one or two was debatable and it would be preferable if some of the titles came to a more satisfactory conclusion, instead of ending rather abruptly as they do.

As far as individual titles are concerned, despite their young audience I think it was a grave omission to ignore the conflict in Northern Ireland together in *Let's go to Ireland*. After 4 children are bombarded with information and full-colour action film in the subject, one day, on the television, I also feel that the Biafran War might have warranted a mention in *Let's go to Nigeria*. However, within the constraints of the format, the series forms a valuable basic framework, which can be fleshed out by using other materials.

I am still rather unsure of the aims of the series by Bernice and Cliff Moon. Outwardly aimed at the slightly older 8 to 10 age group, the books allow some 20 inhabitants of the country in question to talk about their jobs and their lifestyles. The information given about the country itself is sketchy and it

would be extremely difficult for a child seeking specific information for a project to extract anything meaningful from the anecdotal style of presentation.

America is my Country seemed to generate as many questions as it answered and despite the apparent simplicity of its text, contained several terms like "flag football", "drag-race", "boat-driver" and "paste-up desk" which would be meaningless to the average British child and yet there is no glossary provided. Also, America apparently has no black people among its inhabitants, if the collection of Americans featured in the book are assumed to be a representative cross-section.

If this Wayland series seems best suited to the browser, rather than the child undertaking a project, then Macdonald, in their Looking at Lands series have made a determined effort to approach the subject in a truly multi-disciplinary way. *Australia* by Robert Moore, is a mixture of facts, recipes, craft ideas and stories, all with an Australian flavour. The project ideas range from a "Build your own Sydney Opera House" to "Make your own Pavlova" and would delight Dame Edna Everage herself, no doubt. The factual sections are extremely superficial and although some of the colour photographs are attractive, the general standard of the artwork and layout is crude and garish, which is very disappointing from a publisher who has done much pioneering work in the field of information books.

Finally, Wayland have found yet another slant on the topic, in their series Families around the World. Each title spotlights one family and places the city or town where they live in the context of the country's geography, before discussing their way of life in detail. It is difficult to know just how typical the families from France and Mexico are, but they were both obviously middle class and have few financial problems, which in terms of Mexico, certainly might be less than representative.

I might have warned to the friendly informal tone of the conversations with the families more, had the fathers not been such blatant male chauvinists, but that aside, the books are well produced. The text is accessible to the 8 to 11 age group and the use of contents list, index and glossary, together with the theme of a visit to the family gives these books a structure which is missing in some of the other series.

Vivien Griffiths

Computer basics

Computers in the home by Nigel Hawkes. Franklin Watts £4.50. 86313 118 2. Computers in Action. By Nigel Hawkes. Franklin Watts £4.25. 86313 066 6. 50 Facts about Robots. By Mark Lanter. Franklin Watts £3.99. 86313 073 9. Robots and Intelligent Machines. By Ian Litterick. Wayland £4.95 85678 261 9. Programming Computers. By Ian Litterick. Wayland £4.95. 85078 262 7. Just Look at Computers. By Leslie Foster. Macdonald Educational £4.95. 356 09347 6.

The scramble on the keyboard bandwagon continues, and the primary school librarian could be forgiven for assuming that it didn't matter much which of the apparently more or less identical series she invested in. It would be a mistake, however, to appear to be the only one of these books, as mine is better value than others.

The Nigel Hawkes publications, for example, in an electronic-revolution series covering similar ground, are generally inferior to the Kingfisher Science in Action series reviewed here recently and show a rather deplorable tendency to spread a small amount of maliciously amusing truth, using large pieces of cleverness to cover the poverty of the written material. The same publisher's *Go, Monkey, Monkey!* is really 50

answers to questions about robots, many of them distinctly speculative rather than factual, but quite well-assembled.

Ian Litterick deals more interestingly with the same area in another in his useful series, the age of computers, for slightly older readers: the best book in this series so far, however, is *Programming Computers*, which goes in some depth into the topic, one may feel that the valuable loop chapter could have been made even more interesting by giving an example of a loop: whose number of repetitions is not fixed in advance; this is a typical basic fault in a generally highly stimulating introduction to the activity of programming.

This, however, is for children who have already passed the first stage of awareness and are ready to begin work: for the young reader who needs to know what the computer is about, *Just Look at Computers* is the one to get if you are only just getting on. After a brief introduction to the marvels of the silicon chip, it concentrates for most of its length on what computers can do, using cartoons, as well as drawings and photographs, not just for decoration and space filling, but to make important points. It includes Edwin Morgan's poem "The Computer's First Christmas Card": its typical family is multi-ethnic; the first programme it shows is in logo. It knows what it is about in computing and in educational terms, and the reference section is of the quality one has come to expect from Macdonald.

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The Middle Ages. By Greg Thile. Basil Blackwell Living in the Past series. £1.95. 0 631 91140 5. Clothes in History. By Charlotte Sewall. Food in History. By Sheila Robertson. Wayland Picture History £4.95 each. 0 5078 308 9 and 309 7. Fontaine Abbey, a Cistercian Monastery. By Peter Robson. Cundall Manor, Helmerby, York YO6 2RW. 95p + 35p postage.

like the imaginary and impossible "bailey castle and motte". There are good things, like Alexander Neckham's advice on writing; but elsewhere sad weaknesses, like the misreading of the Becket story; Grim's eyewitness account is robbed of its eyewitness excitement, the pictorial "evidence" was painted 250 years too late, and a good yarn is so truncated as to be meaningless. Leaving aside such disappointments, this is an attractive and useful book.

Picture History also presents evidence, 24 coloured pictures to a volume. Food offers in addition much miscellaneous information; Clothes, very little. The style and the illustrations are a mixed bag, often unreliable and uninformative - not very good evidence, in fact. Neither author seems entirely happy with her history, and howlers mingle with remarkable generalizations: meat, we are told, first triggered off the evolution of Man and then proved so nutritious that it allowed him to develop civilization.

Evidence of another kind is to be found in the ruins littering our countryside, and Fontaine Abbey can tell children much about the way of life, economy and beliefs of a fascinating, far-off community. Peter Robson's enthusiastic guide is clear and inexpensive, sensibly designed to help children find their way around the stones and understand the strange world of the past.



From Clothes in History

Tom Corfe

Aspects of art

Some Functions of Art in the Primary School. By Mary Newland and Maurice Rubens. ILEA Art and Design Centre, Oswin St. London SW11. Free.

Teaching Art in Primary Schools. By Geoff Rowsell. Bell and Hyman £10.00. 237 45748 2.

Art education in the primary school is as necessary as the traditional 3Rs but it is made difficult by the widespread lack of any proper experience and knowledge of art amongst teachers of this age-group. Teaching them, therefore, is as important as teaching the children and both these books directly and indirectly address themselves to teachers willing to learn alongside their pupils.

content to accept Rowsell's apparently ready-made solutions instead of tackling the problem for themselves.

Nevertheless, Rowsell does go some way towards providing a much-needed structure for the teaching of art in primary schools. He is aware of the inherent dangers in increasing the child's skills at the expense of creative imagination and although he introduces six year-olds to working from observation, he has ten to eleven year-olds developing this towards individual expression in both small and large-scale works. The overall programme integrates art and craft in such a way that pictorial composition appears closely related to pattern and design and the transition from two to three-dimensions is made to seem smooth.

Children and Art. By Daphne Plaskow. Home and School Council Publication. Available from National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations. 43 Stonebridge Road, Northfield, Gravesend, Kent W9 0JL 11 44 7.

Peace at Last - Books for the Pre-school Child. YLG Pamphlet No 24. 37 Main Road, Shuntlenger, Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 7RU. £1.95 0 946381 0 0 2.

Children and Art is a sad little venture in a difficult field; perhaps only the great Dr Spock has ever mastered the complex art of telling parents what to do without insulting their intelligence, or making them feel even more inadequate than they are. I'm not suggesting that it's easy to write helpful little books for parents on subjects you think they ought to know about, but however good your intentions, there really isn't any excuse for making simple things seem complicated. ("A small patch of blue-tack behind each corner of a picture will give sufficient adhesion") or for stating the obvious ("most large towns have art and craft shops"). I think I know what Daphne Plaskow is trying to say to parents - and it's a sad comment on the communicative powers of teachers that it has to be said for us in a special little pamphlet - but I fear her message will be inaccessible to all but a few.

Mary Newland and Maurice Rubens, two ILEA advisory teachers, aim to raise educational standards by encouraging the non-specialist teacher to consider the part played by investigation, analysis, discovery, recording, illustration, "decoration", feeling, learning, expression, communication and evaluation in art education. With less than 30 pages at their disposal, they are reduced to very brief, though succinct statements supported by well-chosen quotations. As an education handbook, it is not recommended. Few primary school teachers will fail to learn something from it and some might be persuaded to consult the short but impressively diverse list of books recommended for further reading.

Geoff Rowsell's book is much larger and much more ambitious, offering nothing less than a complete course for five to eleven-year-olds. Despite his frequent waffling remarks, he is fundamentally prescriptive and sufficiently confident to compare the teaching of art with teaching someone to drive a car. This may be just what many teachers want to believe, but they could easily feel

Specialists will have no difficulty criticising the book for its arbitrary emphases and dubious assertions. But even they must be pleased that Rowsell is sufficiently sensible to recognise that children learn to do art and craft and that this requires an education which makes some reference to the historical and cultural aspects of the subject. Substantial attempts have been made during the last decade to bring directed practice and informed appreciation together and it is good to see these developments reflected in a book of this kind.

However, unless each teacher tempted to follow Rowsell's programme takes the author's advice and tries out each exercise ahead of the class, there could be some embarrassing moments and not a few disasters. At least they might discover that contrary to what is suggested in the book El Greco is not a painter of everyday scenes and that anyone serious about teaching art must possess the necessary skills for themselves. The exceptionally talented pupils will undoubtedly learn on their own but the majority will need to be taught.

Michael Clarke

Ward Lock Educational Professional Library

Teaching the Very Able Child
Belle Wallace
0 7062 4228 9 (192pp) £4.95

Teaching the Child with Special Needs
Jeanette Raymond
0 7062 4910 2 (128pp) £5.95

Teaching 3-9 Year Olds: Theory into Practice
Marion Dowling and Elizabeth Dauncey
0 7062 4338 2 (272pp) £4.95

To: Sally Buchsacher, Ward Lock Educational, 47 Marybone Lane, London W1M 6AX.

Please send me the following titles on inspection:
[] Teaching the Very Able Child £4.95 + p.p. [] Teaching the Child with Special Needs £5.95 + p.p. [] Teaching 3-9 Year Olds £4.95 + p.p.

Name.....
Address.....

Nature's way?

Pigs on the Farm. 0 85078 326 7. Poultry on the Farm. 327 5. By CHIT Moon. Illustrated by Bill Donohoe and Anna Jupp. Wayland £3.50 each.

Pigs 0 7136 2337 3. Sheep. 2336 5. By Gunilla Ingves. A & C Black Animals on the Farm series £2.50 each.

Learner Bird. By Camilla Jessel. Methuen £3.95. 0 416 22460.

Windward/Belted Press. Animals in the Wild series £2.25. 0 7112 0277 X. Adaptable Birds. By John Andrews. Illustrated by Terry Riley. 0 460 06893 8. Predators and Prey. By Noel Simms. Illustrated by Terry Riley. 0 6893 8. Ingenious Insects. By Anthony Woolton. Illustrated by Mick Loates. 0 6970 5.

Dent Wildlife series £4.95 each.

Reptiles. By David Lambert. 0 86313 136 4. Fish. By Casey Horton. 035 6. Franklin Watts Insight series £4.25 each.

Deserts. 0 7445 0057. Jungles. 0058 3. By Dr Clive Catchpole. Illustrated by Denise Finney. Walker Books Living World series £4.50 each.

The Wildlife of Farmland. By David Gilman. Macdonald Nature in Focus series £4.50. 0 356 07125 1.

The market adjoins the car park in our local town, and rather against my better judgment, I took the two children down to see the animals. The scene was exactly the one pictured in *Pigs on the Farm*. There seems to be a new generation of books about farms which is trying to be more realistic. Anne Jupp's clear illustration has every detail correct: the size of the piglets, the three men hustling them up the tailgate of the lorry, with board and stick to prevent any little one from escaping between his legs. In the picture both men and animals are looking down and you can't see their faces. In reality it is different. The piglets look at you all the time, they are frightened, they are curious, some of them are bleeding. Nor are the three men as they are portrayed, either with the piglets or the adult pigs. We watched a sow and her piglets through the maze of pens. A full-grown pig could do you some damage, but neither showed any signs of revolt beyond the occasional stumble, yet they both got several heavy blows from the stockman.

Unusually silent as we walked back, my daughter needed reassurance: "It's not nice to hit pigs is it?" I have never been to a market where men were so violent, but my three-year-old is among a very small proportion of children who will know what it is like. And the harassment of the traditional market day is by no means the worst which farm animals have to endure. The plain fact is that despite publishers' best intentions, modern day farming is so gruesome that it is impossible to tell the truth, in the straightforward factual style of these books for children to try to achieve.

This is why the pig farming book omits mention of the additives invariably in pig feeds, growth promoting pellets implanted behind the pig's ear, "creep pellets" fed only to pigs forced on for early slaughter because the copper sulphate could poison them eventually, as it does sheep who graze in pasture contaminated by such pig droppings. Similarly, although the battery-system has taken over the European poultry industry, there is only one double-page spread on the subject while there are 14 pages showing poultry in the open, which accounts for less than 1 per cent of egg production. The end of the "bat deck" battery system is illustrated, showing about a dozen birds out of the 20,000 which it is claimed a single stockman can manage with only a little help in the removal of dead or ailing birds.

I'm actually thankful there were not illustrations of debarked and featherless hens with problems of balance, I haven't much of a stomach for that kind of thing, but perhaps it should have been mentioned in this animal-loving country that Switzerland is the only one of the European countries pledged to phase out battery production, as required by the European Convention for the Protection of Farm Animals.

A & C Black's *Pigs and Sheep* are a kind of fairy story. Gunilla Ingves

12 Pretty little pieces, each one describing a Beatrix Potter character or story, specially written for children and giving advice to parents to help them over any difficulties.

£2.50 from your local bookshop.

FREDERICK WARNE
Warne (Publishers) Ltd, London WC2N 6DB

HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

NORTH YORKSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
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HUMBERSIDE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

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The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

Headships

Applications are invited from experienced and suitably qualified infant and primary teachers for the Headship of the following schools:

Group 1. Estimated maximum NOR 1984/85 - 210
Hartford Park Primary School, Wingerworth.

Group 2. Estimated maximum NOR 1984/85 - 175
Carlyle Infant School, Derby.

Group 3. Estimated maximum NOR 1984/85 - 219
Hilton Heathfields Primary School.

Application forms and particulars for the above posts (a.s.e. photocopy please) from the Director of Education, County Office, Mallock, to be returned by 30 March 1984.

Derbyshire County Council is an equal opportunity employer.

DERBYSHIRE
County Council

EDUCATION
Head Teacher

STURTON C.E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL
Church Street, Sturton-le-Steeple, Retford, Notts.

Qualified teachers are invited to apply for appointment as Head Teacher of the above school. The Governors are seeking to appoint a well qualified and experienced teacher who will have Christian Commitment and should be a member of the Church of England. The vacancy is created by the promotion of the Head Teacher to a larger school within the Authority.

Number on Roll: 43 - Salary Group: 2

Application forms and further details may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed footscap envelope to the Director of Education at County Hall.

Closing date: 23rd March 1984.

KENT
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

LIVERPOOL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

POWYS
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

Head Teachers

Qualified teachers are invited to apply for appointment as Head Teachers of the following schools. These vacancies are created by the retirement of the respective Head Teachers. All posts are vacant from 1st September 1984.

COLLEGE HOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL
Cater Lane, Chilwell, Beeston, Nottingham.
Number on Roll: 308
Salary Group: 6

GREENCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL
Clifton Estate, Nottingham.
Number on Roll: 182
+ 60 Place Nursery
Salary Group: 6

RUFFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL
Howwood Road, Bulwell, Nottingham.
Number on Roll: 280
Salary Group: 6

SIR EDMUND HILARY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Kingsway, Kibon, Worksop, Notts.
Number on Roll: 225
+ 40 Place Nursery
Salary Group: 6

Application forms and further details may be obtained by forwarding a stamped addressed footscap envelope to the Director of Education at County Hall.

Closing date: 23rd March 1984.

London Borough of ENFIELD
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

HEADSHIP

RAGLAN JUNIOR SCHOOL
Raglan Road, Enfield EN1 2RG

Group 7 Roll 495

Applications are invited for this HEADSHIP which will fall vacant in September 1984.

London Allowance, 1984. Consideration given to assistance with removal, relocation costs, temporary housing and two homes allowance.

Application forms and further details (footscap SAE) obtainable from the Director of Education, P.O. Box 66, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3XD.

Closing date 23rd March 1984.

WOLVERHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

BERKSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

DEVON
COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
HEADSHIP
£9,948 - £10,974

WALTON C.E. INFANTS' SCHOOL (CONG.)
Hathcote Road, Liverpool
Required for 1 September 1984.

Applications from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Headship should be sent to the Director of Education, County Council, 100 Victoria Road, Southampton SO9 1JF, by 15 March 1984.

The City Council is an equal opportunity employer. Applications from women and disabled persons will be considered.

BROADWATER FARM INFANT SCHOOL
Morle Close, London N17

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHER (GROUP 3)
required as soon as possible.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified and experienced teachers for the post of Deputy Head Teacher. The school has been designated one of social priority and an additional allowance of £201,278 p.a. is payable.

Removal expenses - 100% allowed in approved cases. Application forms (S.A.E.) may be obtained from the Chief Education Officer, Education Office, 48-52 Station Road, Wood Green, London N22 4TY, to whom forms should be returned by 23rd March 1984.

Buckinghamshire Milton Keynes area

ST. MONICA'S R.C. COMBINED SCHOOL
Currier Drive, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, MK14 6HB.
Group 5 (290 on Roll + 78 Nursery)

DEPUTY HEADSHIP

Required from September 1984, a suitably qualified and experienced practising Roman Catholic is required following promotion of the present deputy to a headship. Previous applicants will be considered and need not reapply.

Assistance with removal expenses and rented housing may be available in approved cases and there is a wide range of housing to buy in the area.

Application forms are available from: The Clerk to the Governors, 30 Langpollie Drive, Healds, Milton Keynes, MK13 7LA. Tel: 0908 312709.

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Deputy Head

Deputy Headship of the multi-ethnic 8-12 Middle School (roll approximately 280). A strong interest in Science is highly desirable together with a good knowledge of current educational trends. Applicants should have good organisational skills and be prepared to teach all age groups in

addressed envelope. (2634)

100

HEADSHIP

Application forms and further particulars (send from: **J. Boyers BA**
County Education Officer

Shrewsbury SY2 6ND
Tel: (0743) 222615
To whom they should be returned by 26th March

1

S.A.E.)

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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION DEPARTMENT Technical and Vocational Education Initiative

The Birmingham Initiative is one of the fourteen pilot schemes which started in 1983. A strong team of staff operating in eight schools and co-ordinated centrally is developing a distinctive programme for youngsters seeking a technical and vocational focus to their studies. The Birmingham Initiative has attracted resources to support the full curriculum and thus there are exciting opportunities for teachers seeking to develop specialist expertise in co-ordination with those of other specialisms.

The initiative requires further staffing from 1st September, 1984 and experienced teachers are sought for posts attracting permanent status within the establishment of the City's teaching force. It is anticipated that suitable candidates will be offered posts up to Scale 3. Above all, we are seeking teachers with the energy, enterprise and adaptability to develop a fresh approach to the curriculum and manage resources accordingly.

We are seeking teachers for the following areas:

1. Craft Design and Technology.
2. Information Technology.
3. Applied Sciences/Electronics.
4. Business Studies/Commerce.
5. Home Economics, Catering and Caring Services.

The eight schools taking part in the scheme are in different parts of the City and include 11-18, 11-18 and 12-18 schools, some appointments may require movement between schools. Application forms and further particulars can be obtained from Room 311, Education Department, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BU, enclosing a SAE. Telephone enquiries should be made to the Birmingham Centre for Education and Industry (021-771 4867). Completed application forms should be returned to the Education Department by 29th March, 1984.

(2295)

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

NICED

The Northern Ireland Council for Educational Development wishes to second teachers to support initiatives in the following curricular areas:

Science for the Less-Able Pupil
The Local Environment as a Context for Science Teaching
Home Economics

Economics Education 14-16
Education for Mutual Understanding
Microelectronics in Primary Education
Microelectronics Curriculum Development
In addition, NICED wishes to second a teacher to act as Assistant Information Officer.

All applicants will need to have experience and expertise in the specific curricular area designated and be willing to contribute to curriculum debate at a wide level and to work as a member of a team of support teachers.

Application forms and information about any of the above positions are available from Mr N. Redmond, NICED, Department of Education, Rathgall House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co. Down BT19 2PR. Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 21st March, 1984.

(2293)

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL Voluntarily Aided; 894 pupils including 264 in Sixth Form BIOLOGY ECONOMICS MATHEMATICS MODERN LANGUAGES

Scale 1 posts (or scale 2 for suitable applicants) in these subjects fall vacant in September 1984. Ability to help with extra-curricular activities such as sport (especially rugby and tennis), combined with a keen interest in the school's award scheme etc. an advantage.

Further details from, and applications with curriculum vitae and two references to:

The Headmaster,
Lancaster Royal Grammar School,
East Road,
Lancaster.

SECONDARY SCIENCE

continued

WARWICKSHIRE

CAMPION SCHOOL

Leamington CV35 9JH
(limited comprehensive,
1,000 on roll)

Required for one year from 1st September 1984 a teacher of Physics. Ability to teach C.S.E. and level courses is important. An interest in electronics and computing would be an advantage.

Application forms and further details available from the Head at the school (05935) 134822

Speech and Drama

Scale 2 Posts and above

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

THE NETHERHALL SCHOOL

Required for September 1984 a teacher of Drama. This co-educational comprehensive school has 120 pupils, including 11-18 level Sixth Form.

Well-qualified enthusiastic and experienced teachers are sought for Drama (Scale 2) in Year 10 and to develop examination courses in Upper Sixth. Some English teachers will be time-tabled in the first term.

Apply by letter with full C.V. and names and addresses of two referees to the Head, Netherhall School, Cambridge CB3 9NN, Part 1, (04742) 135220

Scale 1 Posts

SHROPSHIRE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CHURCH STRETTON

Church Street, Shropshire ST16 1EX

Scale 1 temporary teacher of Drama, September 1984 for one year.

Application forms and further details from the Head (SAE), (05922) 135222

WALTHAM FOREST

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

100, Victoria Road, Waltham Forest, London E10 6ND

Head, Miss A. Doran

TEACHER 11 TERM DRA

Required for this comprehensive school for girls and boys, 11-18, 12-18, 13-18, 14-18, 15-18, 16-18, 17-18, 18-19, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-942, 943-944, 945-946, 947-948, 949-950, 951-952, 953-954, 955-956, 957-958, 959-960, 961-962, 963-964, 965-966, 967-968, 969-970, 971-972, 973-974, 975-976, 977-978, 979-980, 981-982, 983-984, 985-986, 987-988, 989-990, 991-992, 993-994, 995-996, 997-998, 999-1000

Technology

Scale 2 Posts and above

DUDLEY

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

100, Victoria Road, Waltham Forest, London E10 6ND

Head, Miss A. Doran

TEACHER 11 TERM DRA

Required for this comprehensive school for girls and boys, 11-18, 12-18, 13-18, 14-18, 15-18, 16-18, 17-18, 18-19, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-942, 943-944, 945-946, 947-948, 949-950, 951-952, 953-954, 955-956, 957-958, 959-960, 961-962, 963-964, 965-966, 967-968, 969-970, 971-972, 973-974, 975-976, 977-978, 979-980, 981-982, 983-984, 985-986, 987-988, 989-990, 991-992, 993-994, 995-996, 997-998, 999-1000

Scale 1 Posts

BEDFORDSHIRE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

100, Victoria Road, Waltham Forest, London E10

OVERSEAS

continued

FRANCE

BRITISH SECTION
Lycée International, St. Germain en Laye.
The Lycée is a French State School catering for British Children. Pupils learn mainly in French but also have six hours' instruction per week in English language, given by one of the nine national teachers. The responsibility of the section is to provide a high standard of education for British children in France. The British Section seeks a Secondary History Teacher for September 1984 to work with the two history teachers who are already on the staff. Candidates will be expected to have served at least three years in the UK or in a British-style school and to have a degree in History or a related subject. Salary will be on the section's Scale 3 (fourth point). Contract is for an initial period of three years, renewable.
Letters of application to the Head of the British Section, Lycée International, PO Box 10, 91104 St. Germain-en-Laye, France, to arrive by 15th March 1984. Enclose full C.V., telephone number and names of two referees. (04601) 46000

GRAND CANARY

THE BRITISH SCHOOL OF GRAND CANARY
The British School of Grand Canary is a day school for children of British parents. It is a non-profit-making school. The school is seeking a Secondary History Teacher for September 1984 to work with the two history teachers who are already on the staff. Candidates will be expected to have served at least three years in the UK or in a British-style school and to have a degree in History or a related subject. Salary will be on the section's Scale 3 (fourth point). Contract is for an initial period of three years, renewable.
Letters of application to the Head of the British School, PO Box 10, 91104 St. Germain-en-Laye, France, to arrive by 15th March 1984. Enclose full C.V., telephone number and names of two referees. (04601) 46000

INDONESIA

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS
Teacher of EFL required for a 12-month contract. Salary: US\$10,000 per annum. Qualifications: Degree in English or equivalent. Experience: 5 years. Only single people considered. For full details and application form write enclosing C.V. and photograph to Mr. A. J. Smith, 88 Lauriston Road, London E9 7JA. (0515) 46000

FOLKEUNIVERSITETET ROGALAND, Stavanger in Norway are looking for a

TEACHER

for their

English Department

Qualifications: TEFL teaching for at least two years. RSA cert. TELF or equivalent. Experience in Cambridge University's FCE and CPE and knowledge of Oxford University's higher level exam in ELT are essential. Some experience in Scandinavian languages an advantage.

Post August 84-July 85-900 hours general English - Proficiency/First Cert; some technical/business/report writing. Possible area of responsibility - to set up ARELS oral exam. Teaching conducted through company contracts and involving travel by car to company premises.

Salary: Kr 80,000 net for first year. (approx Kr. 11,00 = £1). Accommodation: Assistance will be given in finding suitable accommodation in Stavanger.

Application Procedure: Please apply in writing to Susan Lamberton, Folkeuniversitetet Rogaland, Nyløst 8, 4000 Stavanger, Norway enclosing full CV copies of certificates etc. Applications to reach Stavanger by 30th March 1984.

(2532)

Yokohama International School requires for September, 1984:

(1) A Teacher for Physics to 'A' level, General Science, Mathematics and Computer (basic language).

(2) A Teacher for a nine year old class.

Applicants should have at least two years' experience and would be required to participate in extra-curricular activities and take parental duties.

Single teachers or teaching couples are preferred. The initial contract is for two years. Air tickets are provided at the beginning and end of contract.

Applicants should send a brief resume to: The Headmaster, Yokohama International School, 255 Yamate-cho, Naka-ku, Yokohama, Japan 231. Interviews will take place in the United Kingdom in April.

(224)

MATHS AND SCIENCE TEACHERS

SAUDI ARABIA
£15,000 +

ARAMCO, the world's largest oil and gas producing company needs MATHEMATICS and SCIENCE TEACHERS who will contribute to the Training Programme for Saudi Arabian employees—the engineers and technicians of the future.

Applicants should be flexible and committed teachers, with a minimum of 4 years experience teaching foreign students within the age range 14–18 years plus, and will be holders of an HNC, HND or B.Sc. MATHS TEACHERS must be well versed in the concepts of modern maths, plane, solid and analytical geometry, advanced algebra, trigonometry and calculus. For SCIENCE TEACHERS a working knowledge of modern instructional methodology is desirable.

NEW LEAVE SCHEDULE
3 leaves annually for married men on bachelor status

These are unaccompanied positions offering secure employment on open-ended contracts with the opportunity to acquire valuable overseas expertise in a stimulating environment.

In addition to the usual expatriate tax advantages, the package of first-class benefits will include company-paid air fares, excellent sports and recreational facilities, free medical care and generous leave. Married employees on bachelor status will qualify for three return trips annually.

ARAMCO will be holding interviews in London in the near future so if this exciting opportunity appeals to you, please write or telephone for an application form to: Margaret Sutcliffe, DEPT. TE/234/MST, Recruitment International Limited, 9 Park Place, Leeds LS1 2RU. Tel: (0532) 454288.

ARAMCO Recruitment International Ltd.
partners in progress

ENGLISH TEACHING ADVISER

The British Council, Paris

Applications are invited for the post of English teaching Adviser (ETA) in the British Council office in Paris. The successful applicant will work to the English language Officer in a team of three responsible for ELT information service, the ELT seminar programme, teacher training etc.

Essential Qualifications: Ability to work in French, a first degree and relevant teaching qualification. Teaching experience (5 or more years). Good knowledge of current ELT teaching materials and methodological approaches. Sufficient teaching personality to keep the interest of a critical group of teachers for long periods. Willingness to travel. Ability to type.

Highly desirable: An interest in CALL, video, ESP, ESLEFL in secondary schools, modern teaching techniques, teacher training, organising seminars and conferences etc. Experience of ELT library and information services.

Contract: 2 year non-renewable contract under terms generally applicable to French staff locally employed at Grade II in the British Council office in Paris, salary scale FF 10,222–19,582 per month. Accommodation not provided. (C1) – PE 1.1.87.

Procedure: Please apply in writing with CV, and recent passport photograph by 15th April 1984 to The English Language Officer, The British Council, 9 rue de Constantin, 75007 Paris, France.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed in London on Wednesday, 25th April 1984.

(2534)

TANZANIA

International School of Tanganyika Ltd.
DAR-ES-SALAAM

Experienced, versatile and adaptable teachers are required for the following posts:

UPPER SCHOOL: Music, German, Remedial, Geography, Head of Geography Dept, Head of History Dept.
MIDDLE SCHOOL: Teachers.
LOWER SCHOOL: Teachers and ESL.

We also invite applications for the post of Upper School Guidance Counsellor, and also that of Business Manager. For further information, send a large SAE, stating vacancy required to:

UK Secretary,
International School of Tanganyika Ltd.,
28 Hall Lane, Merseyside L31 3DY.
Interviews will be held mid-March.

(2535)

BANDUNG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (BANDUNG, JAVA, INDONESIA)

Required for August 1984
Experienced TEACHERS

1. Kindergarten (New entrants) (ages 5–6)
2. Primary (ages 6–10)
3. Maths and Science (ages 10–14)

BIS is an English-speaking international school with students of many nationalities ranging in age from 5–14. Attractive conditions, including salary and allowances paid in US Dollars and free of Indonesian taxes. Housing provided. Initial two-year contract.

Apply by airmail with qualifications, experience, references and telephone number to the Chairman, Bandung International School, PO Box 132, Bandung, Indonesia, or Telex 28326 AUSAPRO BD before 21st March, 1984.

(915)

Senior Chemistry/Physics Teacher

Bermuda

The Bermuda High School for Girls, an independent fee-paying school with 500 pupils aged from 5–18 years, wishes to appoint a Senior Chemistry/Physics Teacher.

You should hold an honours degree in this discipline as the post involves responsibility for the subject throughout the senior school including GCE 'O' level and A-level examinations with Senior year classes.

The appointment, initially for 3 years, carries a salary on a scale from 21,000–27,450 Bermuda Dollars (equivalent to £14,700–£19,250 approx). Bermuda enjoys a superb climate and offers exceptional facilities for sports and outdoor pursuits.

Please write, with details of qualifications and experience and the names of two professional referees, to: Richard Williams, PER Overseas, 48 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7BS. Tel: 01-229 9906.

(2561)

PER OVERSEAS

The complete overseas recruitment service

GULF AND WESTERN AMERICAS CORP. Dominican Republic

The Gulf and Western Foundation in the Dominican Republic operates the Western Union School and invites applications from suitably experienced teachers for the following positions which will be available in September 1984.

PRIMARY-INFANT SCHOOL (6–11 years)

1 Teacher for 6–7 year olds
1 Teacher for 7–8 year olds
1 Teacher for 8–9 year olds

Reference Code P.1

Reference Code P.2

Reference Code P.3

SECONDARY SCHOOL (6–18 years)

ENGLISH: To teach English at all levels of the Senior School. The selected candidate would have responsibility for the English curriculum within the school. Reference Code E.1.

ENGLISH: To teach English in the lower part of the Senior School. Reference Code E.2.

HISTORY: To teach History and some Economics. This could be a post of responsibility for a suitable candidate. Reference Code H.1. For any of the posts in the Senior School an interest in career guidance would be an advantage. The contracts are initially for two years with return flights paid. A competitive salary is offered and free furnished accommodation is provided. Many sporting and leisure facilities are available to Gulf and Western employees, as well as a comprehensive medical scheme. The Dominican Republic has a low rate of inflation.

These positions are open to single or married teachers. Married couples who both teach are preferred but this is not essential.

Please apply with letter of application, full C.V. and recent photograph. Include names and addresses and telephone numbers of two referees. A telephone number where you can be reached at work or at home during 2–8 April is essential.

Candidates selected for interview will be contacted by telephone and interviews will be held in London during 9th–13th April.

Candidates to be sent to: Mr. D. J. Tully, Headmaster, c/o 29 Unkide Drive, Wexham, Swavesey, West Glamorgan.

Closing date for applications 30th March, 1984. Indicate Reference Code on envelope.

(224)

DUBAI COLLEGE

ESTABLISHED IN DUBAI (1978) BY DECREE OF H.H. THE RULER
Dubai College is a British style Co-Educational Secondary Day School of 420 pupils, established in a purpose built complex with lavish educational and sporting facilities.

It caters for the age range 11 to 18, taught by a highly qualified and experienced staff. The school is a member of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) and is a member of the British Council. The school is a member of the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) and is a member of the British Council.

Applications are invited from mature British teachers, good honours graduate with at least 10 years experience, for the following posts of responsibility, from September 1984.

HEAD OF ENGLISH
HEAD OF SCIENCE (preference will be given to a Physicist)
HEAD OF ART

Applicants are also invited from specialist British trained graduate teachers with 3 years experience for the following posts, from September 1984.

ENGLISH TEACHER
MATHS TEACHER
PHYSICS TEACHER
MODERN LANGUAGES TEACHER (FRENCH & GERMAN)
TEACHER OF FRENCH & MUSIC
MUSIC TEACHER

Salary scale: currently tax free, in range of UAE Dirhams 32,500–69,600 per annum. Full pension and gratuity. Current exchange rate D.P. 3.5 = £1. Full medical insurance, fully furnished accommodation, return annual air fare, and other benefits. Candidates should send their applications, with names and addresses of two referees and a recent photograph to: Department V, P.A.C.E.S. 66 Ecotone, P.O. Box 10, W.A.B. 510.

Interviews will be held on 21 March. Interviews in London in April. Further particulars about the school and the area will be sent to long-listed candidates.

ALL REGISTERED TEACHERS CONSIDERED AUTOMATICALLY. (2257)

This advertisement due to previous error

THE BRITISH AMERICAN SCHOOL BARRANQUILLA COLOMBIA

Required as soon as possible

One Science Teacher for Middle School and one for 10 to 15 year olds E.F.L. an advantage.

Suitably qualified teachers should apply in writing as soon as possible enclosing C.V., recent photograph, names of referees and giving a telephone number to:

Mr. G.D.K. Turton,
36 Park Drive,
East Sheen,
London SW14 6RD.

Interviews by the Headmaster in London in May.

OVERSEAS

continued

SUDAN

The Sudanese Ministry of Education is seeking teachers of English for its Upper Secondary Schools. Applications from teachers accepted from degree holders and qualified teachers. Teachers experienced in teaching English are welcome. A modest salary is paid at local rates.

Further information and applications should be sent to: British Council, Sudan Cultural Council, 33 Rutland Gate, London SW1P 1PD. Closing date 4th May. (0703) 480000

OVERSEAS

continued

TEACHER EXCHANGE (EUROPE)

British teachers of Modern Languages are currently invited to apply for a post in Europe. Austria, Belgium, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom. Applications should be sent to Mrs M. Fowler, High View, Littlehampton, Sussex BN16 9JL. (0430) 460000

SPAIN

Academy N. Spain needs E.F.L. teachers with R.S.A. profile, or similar, working knowledge Spanish desirable. Also Director of Studies/teacher-trainer with R.S.A. diploma. Write to Mrs M. Fowler, High View, Littlehampton, Sussex BN16 9JL. (0430) 460000

SPAIN
Experienced, qualified EFL teacher, preferably Modern Languages, Graduate and/or Postgraduate, to teach in a private language school. Excellent salary and accommodation. One course contract (renewable). Please send C.V. and photo, names and addresses of two referees to Mrs A. MANRESA (Barcelona) Spain (033) 460000

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Service Children's Education Authority

Senior Educational and Teaching Appointments in North West Europe, The Middle and Far East for September 1984

The Ministry of Defence invites applications from appropriately qualified and experienced individuals for the following overseas posts which are to be filled for the Autumn Term 1984, if possible.

General Educational Adviser

Service Children's Schools (North West Europe)
Salary Scale £13,395–£14,581

Service Children's Schools (North West Europe) comprise 93 First, Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools situated mainly in the Federal Republic of Germany. They conform in type and scope to those in the maintained sector in England and Wales and provide an education for 26,337 children of Service personnel and Ministry of Defence civilians who are temporarily overseas.

This post is located in the Area Education Office, Minden, West Germany. Applicants should have teaching experience at a senior level. Evidence of further professional study and advisory experience would be an advantage. The successful applicant will have pastoral responsibility for a group of schools but will have special expertise in the education of children aged 9–13; preference will be given to applicants who can offer Service as one of their specialisms. Duties will include the promotion of Service education and curriculum developments. As the post requires extensive travelling between schools, the possession of a current driving licence is essential.

In addition to the above salary rates, London Area Allowance of £946 per annum is payable. This post is superannuated under the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme which is non-contributory.

Senior Teaching Appointments

West Germany

Head Teacher

Clive First School, Osnabrück (Group 5)

A Head Teacher with good experience of the 5–9 age group, and an understanding and sympathy for an integrated and experienced based approach to learning is required for this purpose-built school of traditional design. There are approximately 300 pupils on roll and 14 staff (including the Head Teacher). It is expected that candidates already occupy a senior post in a First or Primary school and have at least 10 years teaching experience. Osnabrück is a large university town in North Germany with excellent shopping facilities and communications.

Deputy Head Teacher

Heide Primary School, Fallingboedel (Group 5)

A teacher is required for this open plan school which is situated in spacious grounds with its own playing fields. There are at present 320 pupils on roll with a teaching staff of 16, including the teacher of the Special Unit attached to the school. The successful candidate will have responsibility for Science and Environmental Studies and the co-ordination of the Junior Department. Applicants should ideally already occupy a senior post in a First or Primary School and have at least 8 years teaching experience. Fallingboedel is a small town on the Lüneburg Heath, with convenient autobahn access to Hannover, Hamburg and the Harz Mountains.

Deputy Head Teacher

Roy First School, Düsseldorf (Group 5)

Roy First School has a semi-open plan and traditional classrooms. There are approximately 285 pupils on roll and a teaching staff of 12 (including Headmistress). In addition to the Senior Management role the person appointed will have further duties for Mathematics throughout the school and further duties would ideally include an active involvement in Junior Games and Swimming as well as oversight of audio-visual aids and stock. Candidates should already occupy a senior post in a First or Primary School and have at least 8 years teaching experience. Düsseldorf offers all the facilities and attractions of a large city on the Rhine.

Middle East

Head Teacher

St Michael's Primary School, Nicosia, Cyprus (Group 2)

A Head Teacher is required with a good knowledge of Education over the whole primary range who ideally has some experience of administration, preferably in a Service environment. Once fully operational following a phased re-opening in September 1984 St Michael's School will have approximately 70 pupils on roll with a teaching staff of 4 to cater for the children of British servicemen posted to the United Nations Force in Nicosia.

Far East

Head Teacher

Serla Primary School, Brunel (Group 2)

Serla Primary School currently has 61 pupils and 4 members of staff. The school is organised into vertically grouped classes. Applicants should be keen on sport especially swimming, be self-sufficient and resourceful and keen on the development of extra-curricular activities. A wide knowledge of the curriculum is essential in this small school. Applicants must have a current driving licence.

Head Teacher

Tutong Primary School, Brunel (Group 1)

The Head Teacher of this 2 teacher school must be prepared to teach both infant and junior children; a wide range and knowledge of the curriculum is essential. Applicants should be self-sufficient and resourceful and have a broad range of interests in extra-curricular activities and sport. The successful candidates must have a current driving licence.

Hong Kong

Deputy Head Teacher

St George's School, Hong Kong (Group 9)

There are approximately 600 children on roll in this co-educational, 11–19 comprehensive school. The curriculum includes CSEs leading to GCE 'O' London and CSE Southern Region examinations in 5th year. The 5th form is open entry and has wide provision, including pre-vocational City & Guilds Foundation CSEs as well as GCE 'A' level. For pastoral purposes, the school is organised on a vertical house basis. The Deputy will, along with the Head Teacher and Second Mistress, form the senior management team and will, therefore, be concerned with all aspects of the well-being of the school. He/she will, however, have particular responsibility for curriculum design and development, including the formation and operation of working parties; curriculum implementation; including timetable; people counselling and liaison with parents on individual programmes; monitoring the effectiveness of pupil assessment; and advising on in-service needs. There will be a need to work well with Heads of Department and Heads of House and it will be necessary from time to time to act in a guidance role with teaching staff.

Candidates for all posts will be expected to show a disposition to integrate with local military community and maintain good relations with parents.

For all posts except the General Educational Adviser, SALARY is in accordance with the current Burnham Scale. In addition the London Area Allowance of £987 per annum is payable. FOREIGN SERVICE ALLOWANCE – a tax free allowance is payable. SUPERANNUATION – normal rights are safeguarded. ACCOMMODATION is provided rent free or an allowance towards the rent is payable. DURATION OF ENGAGEMENT – initially for a period of 3 years, except in Brunel where the engagement is initially for a period of 2 years.

All Applicants should be normally resident in the United Kingdom. Applicants for posts other than that of General Educational Adviser should note that teachers do not normally serve in Service Children's Schools abroad after the academic year in which they reach the age of 50 and, therefore, the preferred age is under 47 years at the commencement of the engagement. The Civil Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

Requests for an application form and further details about these posts should be made to: Ministry of Defence, CMB/54, Room 345, Lecon House, Theobalds Road, London WC1X 8RY, or telephone on 01-430 8387/8654.

The closing date for completed application forms is Wednesday, 28th March, 1984.



(2254)

University of Petroleum and Minerals

DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA



ENGLISH LANGUAGE CENTER

The ELC is responsible for preparing approximately 1000-1400 male students per year for study in all-English medium technical courses leading to bachelor's degrees in science, engineering and management. The center currently employs some 70 teachers (British, American, Canadian and Australian) and is expected to expand the programme to include English for academic purposes, well-equipped language labs, an audio-visual studio and 80 computer assisted instruction terminals form part of the technical equipment available.

We have opportunities for well-qualified, committed and experienced teachers of English as a foreign language as from September 1984. Applicants should be willing to teach in a structured, intensive programme which is continuously evolving and they are encouraged to contribute ideas and materials.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. MA in TEFL/TESOL or Applied Linguistics
- OR 2. Postgraduate Diploma in TEFL or TESOL from a recognised university.
- OR 3. Postgraduate Certificate in Education (TEFL/TESOL).

EXPERIENCE:

Minimum two years teaching experience in TEFL/TESOL overseas.

STARTING SALARY:

Depending on qualifications and experience. Salary is free of Saudi taxes.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

1. Rent-free, air-conditioned furnished accommodation. All utilities provided.
2. Gratuity of one month's salary for each year worked, payable on completion of final contract.
3. Two months' paid summer leave each year.
4. Attractive educational assistance grants for school-age dependent children.
5. Transportation allowance.
6. Possibility of selection for university's ongoing summer programme and evening programme with good additional compensation.
7. Outstanding recreational facilities.
8. Free air transportation to and from Dhahran each year.

CONTRACT:

For two years - renewable.

Send your application urgently with complete resume of academic professional and personnel data. List of references, including names and office addresses and numbers to: P.J. Smith, Esq., Gabbidon-Thring Services Ltd., Broughdon House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1B 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161.

Assistant Director of Education (Schools)

£17,208 - £19,896

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for this senior appointment, commencing in September 1984. Applicants should have appropriate academic qualifications, successful teaching experience and substantial professional administrative experience, preferably with a local education authority.

The person appointed will be responsible to the Director of Education for the co-ordination of all work associated with the management of schools throughout the Authority.

Application forms and details from the Director of Education, Staffing Section, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex.

PO19 1RF; on receipt of f001scap S.A.E. Closing date 27th March.

West Sussex
COUNTY COUNCIL



Careers Officer

Salary: £5,271.91 - £7,886

Required at the Careers Office, 30 Roman Bank, Skipton, to undertake the full range of vocational guidance duties.

Applicants should be qualified and/or experienced Careers Officers including those who have recently completed DCG Courses and hold a full current driving licence.

The cost of housing in Lincolnshire is still relatively inexpensive and relocation expenses are reimbursable up to a maximum of £1,061 excluding VAT to the successful candidate who is buying and selling a property. A casual user car allowance and subsistence expenses are payable.

Application forms and further details are available from: The County Personnel Officer, County Offices, Lincoln (Tel: 0522) 24482. Please quote ED286 to whom completed forms should be returned by 20th March 1984.

(2874)

Lincolnshire
County Council

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF STOCKPORT

PRINCIPAL CAREERS OFFICER

£10,242 - £11,062 (Ref: E100)

Must be suitably qualified and experienced and have held a senior and responsible position in a Careers Service. Will be responsible to the Assistant Director (Professional Services) for the organisation, development and administration of the Careers Service and be expected to make a positive contribution to a range of education, training and guidance initiatives initiated by the authority. The person appointed will be expected to have a valid driving licence and a car. A casual user car allowance is available.

CO-ORDINATOR - BASIC EDUCATION

Lecturer Grade 1 (Burnham FE) - Honorarium for ESF responsibilities (Ref: E190)

Applicants must have relevant experience for this post of full-time co-ordinator for the Stockport Basic Education Project. Will be responsible to the Education Officer (Further Education), and be expected to co-ordinate and develop the various aspects of Basic Education in the Borough. In order to carry out the duties of the post, the Co-ordinator will need to have a car and a valid driving licence.

Application forms and further details obtainable from the Personnel Officer to the Director of Education, Town Hall, Stockport SK1 1RE, quoting reference by 23rd March 1984.

OVERSEAS continued

KUWAIT
ENGLISH SCHOOL
Kuwait
TEACHERS AND MUSIC
Applications are invited for September 1984 for teachers of English and music specialist in the Education Department. Candidates should be well qualified and have relevant teaching and administrative experience. The successful applicant will lead an enthusiastic and committed team and to develop all aspects of the school. We offer: furnished accommodation, air conditioning, in-house electricity, telephone, car, and a salary of \$1,500 per month plus medical and educational allowances. Please send c.v. with photograph to: The Advertisement Office, P.O. Box 61584, Kuwait. (60537)

JORDAN

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Cordiff
UNIVERSITY ENGLISH CENTRE FOR OVERSEAS
University College, Cordiff is assisting in the recruitment of staff for the English Language Teaching Centre in Amman, Jordan. Two posts are available for suitably qualified and experienced female teachers of E.F.L. for one year in the first instance. Salaries will be up to £7,000 plus 10% per annum and initial placement on that scale will depend upon qualifications and experience. Furnished accommodation, including a car, is available. Please send your application with complete resume and references to: P.J. Smith, Esq., Gabbidon-Thring Services Ltd., Broughdon House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1B 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161.

SPAIN
English Junior School requires three young single teachers for September 1984. Two with ability to take football, rugby, athletics and one pianist. Minimum 3 years experience. Interviews London in May. Please send photo and c.v. to: P.J. Smith, Esq., Gabbidon-Thring Services Ltd., Broughdon House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1B 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161.

KENYA

ADVERTISING BOARD
Independent Girls Boarding School (16)
Teachers for: Maths and Science (16), Home Economics (16), and English (16). Due to postal loss en route to Kenya, previous applicants should re-apply. Address: P.O. Box 60053, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel: 01-254 60000.

SOUTH AFRICA

WOODBRIDGE SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1000, Port Elizabeth
An educational, private school for approximately 250. Requirements: a teacher of Accounting, Mathematics, and English. Magnificent grounds and setting. Appeal to those keen on living in the country. As from Jan. 1985. Reply immediately to the Headmaster, stating qualifications, marital status, income, and experience. (60554)

SWITZERLAND

ECONOMICS teacher 'O' level
and 'A' level required. English, Maths, and Economics. Apply with full C.V.

The Principal thanks the many applicants for the vacancies advertised for teachers for 11 year olds. The successful candidate must be a native speaker of English, have a minimum of 5 years teaching experience, and be able to teach Economics, Mathematics, and English. The successful candidate will be expected to apply for a visa to Switzerland. (60554)

SWITZERLAND

AIGLON COLLEGE
the independent Overseas (H.C.) British International boarding school for boys and girls (11-18) in the Swiss Alps. Requires for September 1984:

1. Head of Expeditions: to assume leadership of a well established department which provides regular expeditions and camping for boys and girls. The successful candidate should have a good knowledge of the local terrain and be able to lead a team of young people in mountain expeditions. The successful candidate should be an expert in self reliance and have a high standard of safety and organization. A high standard of leadership is required. Knowledge of the local terrain will be an asset and fluency in French and English is essential. The successful candidate should be enthusiastic and single.
2. Head of Chemistry: experienced and qualified to run a small department. The successful candidate should have a good knowledge of the local terrain and be able to lead a team of young people in mountain expeditions. The successful candidate should be an expert in self reliance and have a high standard of safety and organization. A high standard of leadership is required. Knowledge of the local terrain will be an asset and fluency in French and English is essential. The successful candidate should be enthusiastic and single.
3. Laboratory and Teaching Assistant: Bright, independent young person to assist in science lessons in classrooms and on camping expeditions. The successful candidate should have a good knowledge of the local terrain and be able to lead a team of young people in mountain expeditions. The successful candidate should be an expert in self reliance and have a high standard of safety and organization. A high standard of leadership is required. Knowledge of the local terrain will be an asset and fluency in French and English is essential. The successful candidate should be enthusiastic and single.

Closing date: 16th March 1984. Please quote reference no. 460000

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TURKEY

ANNOUNCEMENT:
Turkey
Maths-Science-English
teachers required for Sept. 1984. 8.7.
A private secondary school needs a team of teachers with P.O.C.E. and the major should be in the wanted subjects. Free accommodation, attractive salary 48 days in summer and 48 days in winter paid vacations.
Written application with CV and recent photo to: English Department, Kocaeli University, Turkey not later than April 1st. (60543) 46000

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi
REQUIRED:
U.K. trained, fully qualified and experienced preparatory school teachers with a minimum of 3 years preparatory experience. In addition to being excellent teachers, applicants must be prepared to take on a wide range of responsibilities in the following areas: Language Development, Mathematics, Computers, and the Physical Sciences. The successful candidate will be expected to apply for a visa to the United Arab Emirates. (60554)

WEST GERMANY

Overseas teachers required to teach English, foreign languages, and art and music. Apply with full C.V. and recent photo to: P.J. Smith, Esq., Gabbidon-Thring Services Ltd., Broughdon House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1B 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161.

WEST GERMANY

Overseas teachers required to teach English, foreign languages, and art and music. Apply with full C.V. and recent photo to: P.J. Smith, Esq., Gabbidon-Thring Services Ltd., Broughdon House, 6, 7 & 8 Sackville Street, Piccadilly, London W1B 2BR. Tel: 01-734 0161.

CHRISTIAN TEACHERS

Needed for secondary schools in Africa and New Guinea. Voluntary work. Missionary Movement, Shenley Lane, London W14 9JF. (60558)

ADMINISTRATION

Local Education Authority

HAMPSHIRE

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

CAREERS SERVICE

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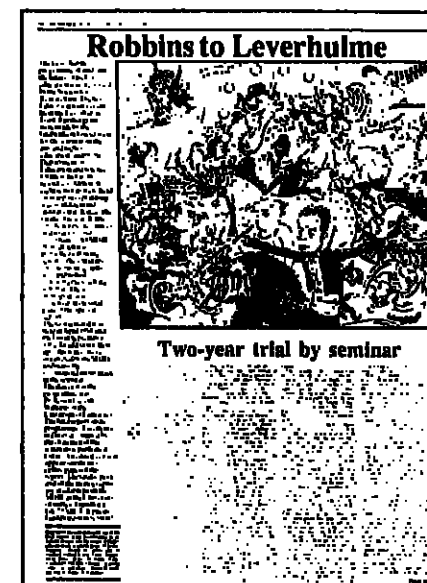
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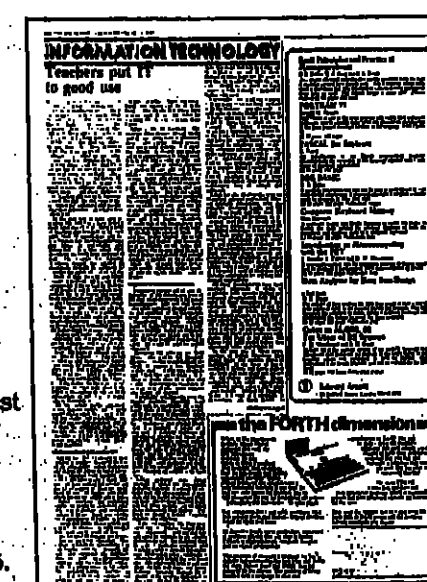
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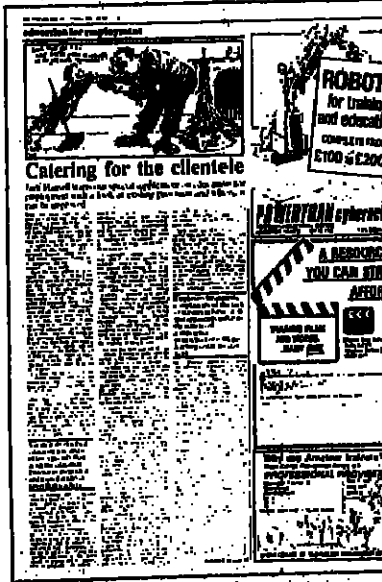
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PERSONAL

"We come now to item 3 on the agenda, ladies and gentlemen, which, as you can see, is the thorny issue of the confidential records of pupils' progress which are kept under lock and key in the school office."

"Before we go any further, headmaster, I must protest on behalf of the science staff at this gross insult to the professional integrity of myself and my colleagues. If we cannot be trusted to keep proper confidential records on pupils without having to show them open for inspection by any Tom, Dick or Harry, then it is a sad day for the teaching profession."

"I'm sorry you feel so strongly about it, Mr Trubshaw, but I must correct what you have just said. The authority has ruled that all pupils' files must be made available for inspection only by parents or guardians, not by anyone who wishes to see them. This is why I propose to go through some of the files in this meeting to see what needs to be removed or altered."

"Surely, headmaster, we are not going to discuss the confidential file of every pupil in the school?"

"No, Mrs Jackson. I propose we look at one or two just to decide about the kind of things that will need to be changed before parents come to in-

spect. So let us start with the third year and the file of Shane Abbot. I see Mr Trubshaw that you have written under the science entry 'A sly and oily creep whose only future is as a second-hand car salesman'. I know that the Morris Minor you bought from his father has given you a lot of trouble, but I wonder if you could amend this entry which his parents will, I am sure, find offensive."

"Amend it to what, headmaster?"

"Well, what about 'satisfactory work and progress'? Similarly I think we might need to dry-clean your English comment, Mrs Jackson, which reads 'A cruel misuser of the English language with the literary sensitivity of Norman Tebbit', since his mother is a local Conservative councillor. I am also concerned about the brevity of some of the entries. Under maths, for example, Miss Henson has simply written 'same', for music it says 'the archetypal punk', and I take it your observation for art, Mr Jennings, which reads 'Who's he?' is meant as a joke."

"No headmaster, with only one lesson a week and 38 in the class I'm afraid I had to put that for everyone in the third year."

"Oh, I see. Well, one or two other little details did catch my attention."



Ted Wragg

Perhaps Miss Forsyth you could consider again your history comment 'Stupid boy, stupid parents, stupid name', and his one favourable comment in the third year options section which says 'excellent progress in German' will need to be deleted because he is actually in the craft and design class."

"Headmaster I must protest once more at this moral collapse. All you are

doing is emasculating our sincerely held views and bowing to public and i.e.a. pressure. It is scandalous in a democratic society that we are not able to express ourselves freely in these confidential files."

"Well Mr Trubshaw, I have anticipated your reservations, so I have a suggestion which I think will meet your criticisms, and it is that we should in future write these reports in code."

"I'm sorry, headmaster, I don't follow."

"It's quite simple really. I looked through all the confidential files and picked out the most frequently recurring critical comments. Then I devised a code which consists of the most commonly used report clichés and matched them on a list which I shall circulate to all staff."

"I still don't understand head-

master."

"It's easy, Mr Trubshaw. If you want to describe someone as 'a sly and oily creep' you look at my list and see that the code is 'satisfactory work and progress'. Any slurs on parents, their integrity, sanity or moral standing is expressed in code as 'satisfactory progress and work'. In the case of the most common criticism of all, 'the pupil is a good-for-nothing, bone-idle waster

and layabout', the code is 'entirely satisfactory work and progress'. So you see you can say what you like but the parents will never know."

"That's brilliant, headmaster."

"I'm glad you like it, Mr Trubshaw, actually got the idea from HMI re-

ports. Well I assume staff will now go through all the files and insert the relevant coded phrases, so let us pass on to item 4 on the agenda which is the matter of my own confidential files or members of staff. Yes, what is it now Mr Trubshaw?"

"Headmaster, I must protest on be-

half of the science staff at this gross insult to the professional integrity of myself and my colleagues. If we cannot be trusted to behave in a proper manner without you having to keep confidential files on us, then it is a sad day for the teaching profession."

"I do think you are being unnecessarily concerned. Since pupil files are to be open for inspection I am proposing that staff should also be able to see the contents of their own files. When you read your file you will see that you have nothing to be anxious about Mr Trubshaw, as I regard the work and progress of both yourself and your science colleagues as entirely satisfactory."

DIARY

The other Victorian values

To the William Morris Exhibition at the ICA, a superb exposition of the necessary connexion between politics and art. Because Morris came to full artistic maturity when the Second Marx second, the ICA has been able to rustle up an interesting collection of sponsors - one cluster led by the John Lewis Partnership, and also containing Arthur Sanderson Ltd, the Drapers Company and the Illustrated London News; and another, led by the Greater London Council, in solidarity with the National Graphical Association, and a number of other trade unions, like UCATT, APEX and the ACTU.

Morris emerges as an extraordinary and self-confident Victorian, whose morality and socialism sprang from a passionate commitment to beauty and happiness. ("Whatever is unhappy is immoral!")

He loathed the ugly side of nineteenth-century competition, as he'd have loathed monetarism if he'd ever encountered it. He'd have been more distressed by the passive, tower-block environment which passed for "socialism" in the 1960s.

The exhibition lasts until Sunday, April 29 and is a must for any school trip; it contains a rich vein of Victorian values which should act both as an effective antidote to the Thatcherian strain currently being propagated and as a seminal influence on youngsters seeking a focus for idealism. It's been, panned by Lady Vaizey in *The Sunday Times* as boring and biased. Don't believe her. It's exhilarating. Ring 01-930 0493 and give them a little notice.

Keeping secrets

An aspect of education today from which William Morris would have recoiled is the secret record system schools maintain on children and their parents. Reports from teachers were among the worst of the horror stories which the 1984 Freedom of Information Campaign revealed at its press conference last week.

"This boy is big, black and smelly." "Jimmy is a cancer to the student body - if he didn't commit this crime then someone else in his family did." "Mother professes an interest in his welfare but we hear stories of drinking and late night parties." All these from school reports to juvenile courts to which neither parents or children have a right of access.



When Adam delved and Eve span who was then the gentleman

Edward Burne-Jones's engraving for William Morris's *A Dream of John Ball*.

In 1981, nearly two-thirds of juvenile courts did not show the reports to parents, and nearly a third failed to produce any summary at all - as the law requires. But in any event, how do you "summarize" racist labels - like "big, black and smelly"?

This particular cancer, however, spreads far beyond the delinquent fringe. All over the country, secret school reports are replete with irrelevant, inaccurate and often libellous comments about perfectly ordinary children and their parents.

Non-existent divorce and unsubstantiated "unhappiness at home" have cropped up on those very rare occasions when parents have accidentally seen reports on their children. In the mass of cases when they don't, labels inevitably pursue youngsters throughout their school career and



Chris Smith: wants to open the files

often, in confidential references, through their lives.

"The local authorities' record is a depressing one. Tory Cheshire opened its files in 1976 and Labour ILEA is about to follow suit. But most i.e.a.s haven't yet begun to grapple with their responsibilities to both parents and open government. One researcher was even refused copies of the relevant blank forms by the vast majority of i.e.a.s she approached."

The solution is a simple one - let the parents and older children check them for accuracy, if they wish; and if that leads to fewer records being made, so much the better. It should at least concentrate teachers' minds, when they comment on those children for whom they are responsible.

The campaign wants legislation - and Chris Smith, MP for Islington South, is shortly to introduce a Bill to ensure personal access to files. (The Data Protection Bill merely provides access to computerized files - and only to some of those.)

But it would be even better if the teachers' unions could instruct their members to behave like lawyers and insist, on professional grounds, that their clients should always have access to their own files. The legislation would scarcely be necessary.

The irony is that while records remain locked up, profiles are breaking new ground, with pupil participation in assessment recommended by Government, and even the NAS/UWT approving some contribution by pupils to their own profile.

Indeed the NAS/UWT give the game away in their (sensible) comments on the desirability of using profiles for evaluating personal qualities. "Evaluating personal qualities is an extremely difficult and complex procedure, and more research is required before the real value of recording this type of information can be properly assessed." Amen. I'm sure they realize this stricture applies *a fortiori* to secret records.

Extraneous epithets

To a pub in Oxford, for a private discussion on community schools. I conclude that community schools are excellent institutions (see my review of the progress of Sutton Centre in *The TES* a fortnight ago, p27); but that since "community" now almost connotes communism to the less enlightened of our lords and masters in high political places, we'll go easy on the word.

I've always regretted lumbering our schools with that appalling and clumsy epithet "comprehensive". Eton doesn't call itself Eton Public School. Schools with any degree of self-confidence don't need ideological handles to their name.

Fashion faux pas

I owe apologies to Randolph Qu of London University for getting gear all wrong last week. It was for stuff - Sorbonne rather than v. chancellorian finery. To complete apology, I understand that Goldsmith is like any other part of Lc. University. Only the university hand out doctorates - even LSE I be content with fellows.

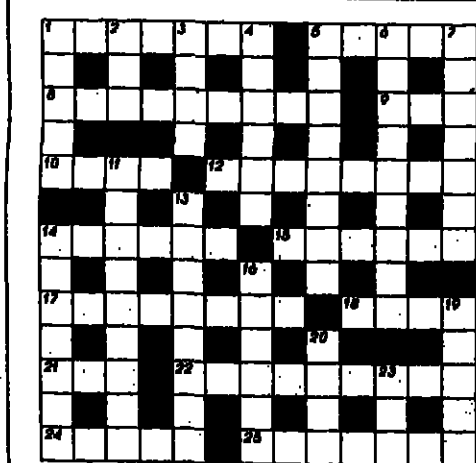
I was also probably wrong to Goldsmiths in the role of desp. felt-tell me that the collar fur more wooed than wooing.

All of which having been said, I have high hopes of Andrew Rulerford, the new warden. Though a paper he looks like an orthodox university academic, he's had lots experience of looking after English in the CNA, like Christopher Ball of NAB.

Such experience helped Christopher gain the political agility to straddle the binary line. Who knows? Perhaps Andrew has gained the same sort of skills to invent a transbinary polyversity in South London.

Christopher Price

No 142 CROSSWORD by Rufus



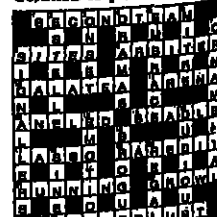
Across

- 1 Gets off or puts on the line (3,2)
- 5 Dog that is scientifically famous (5)
- 8 Students should draw on his advice (3,6)
- 9 Mixed type of food? (3)
- 10 Hardy female (4)
- 12 Bet a long striding gait is natural to it (8)
- 14 It's looped around a dog (6)
- 15 The others pop in for a meal (6)
- 17 The plan might be a jumbo (8)
- 18 He refused to accept tyranny or play the former (4)
- 21 Wood used in model-making (3)
- 22 Today's most popular writer? (4-5)
- 24 Principle of having it both ways? (5)
- 25 Children often assume them in play (7)

Down

- 1 It beats to death (5)
- 2 Food that may be boiled (3)
- 3 New tabs block (4)
- 4 Obvious protection for invasive types (8)
- 5 Rounded up but not rounded off (8)
- 6 Concerning a will he's shameless (9)
- 7 Not a compound heater (7)
- 11 Wheelwright's representative (9)
- 13 A collection of letters (8)
- 14 French official with authority over the lower classes? (7)
- 16 Fisherman shows displeasure when lake is filled in (6)
- 19 Lions break up the plant (5)
- 20 Canned meat upon plans (4)
- 23 It's very cold when I go to church (3)

Solution to puzzle no 141



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